

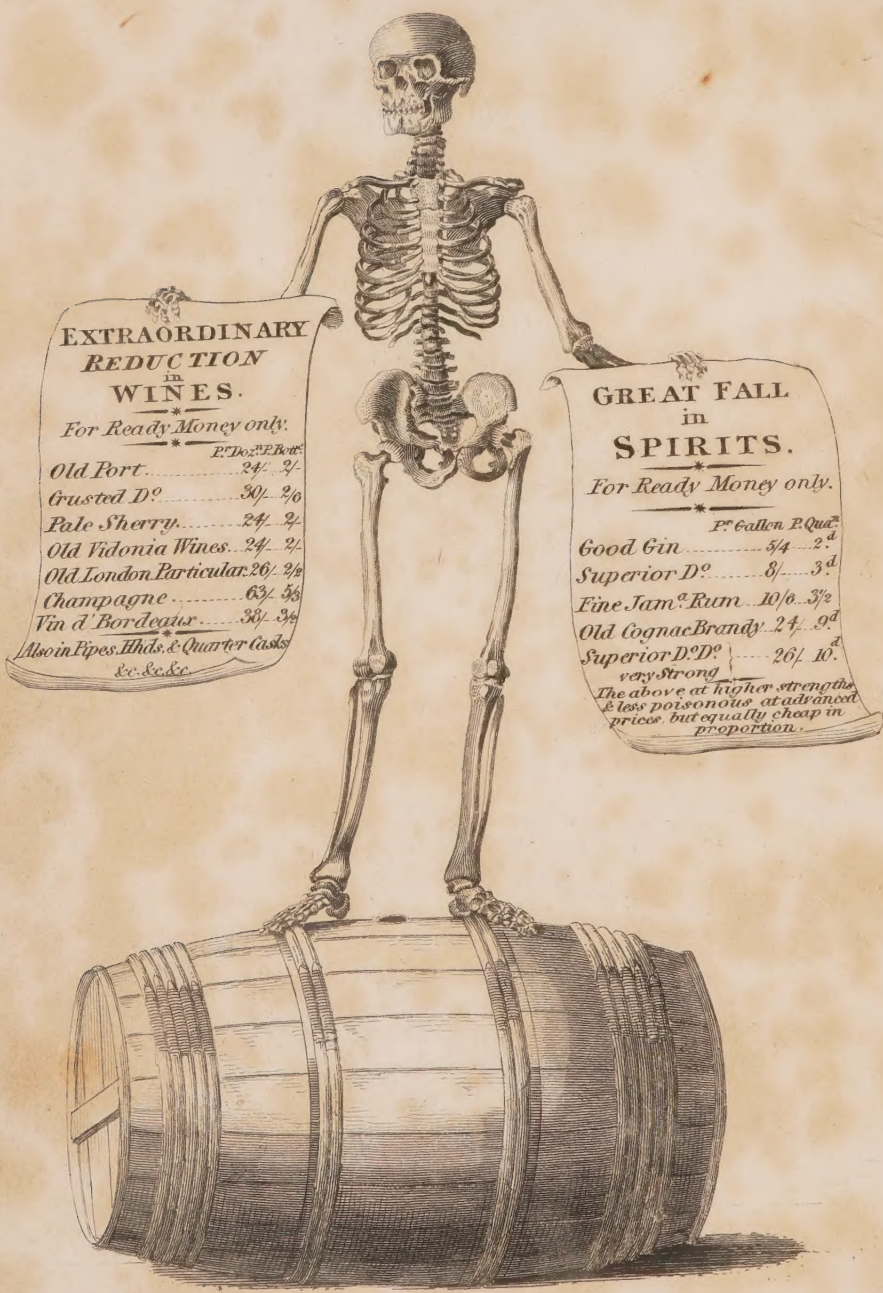
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WINE.

2

STUDY AND SPIRIT
ADULTS - 1948 - 1949

WINE AND SPIRIT
ADULTERATORS UNMASKED.



**EXTRAORDINARY
REDUCTION
in
WINES.**

For Ready Money only.

| | <i>E^d Dozⁿ E^d Bott^s</i> |
|---|---|
| Old Port..... | 24/ 2/- |
| Trusted D ^o | 30/ 2/6 |
| Pale Sherry..... | 24/ 2/- |
| Old Vidonia Wines..... | 24/ 2/- |
| Old London Particular..... | 26/ 2/6 |
| Champagne..... | 63/ 5/6 |
| Vin d' Bordeaux..... | 33/ 3/4 |
| <i>Also in Pipes, Hhds. & Quarter Casks</i> | |
| <i>&c. &c. &c.</i> | |

**GREAT FALL
in
SPIRITS.**

For Ready Money only.

| | <i>P^r Gallon P. Qua^r</i> |
|--|--|
| Good Gin..... | 3/4 2 ^d |
| Superior D ^o | 8/ 3 ^d |
| Fine Jam ^a Rum..... | 10/6 3 ^d 2 |
| Old Cognac Brandy..... | 24/ 9 ^d |
| Superior D ^o D ^o | 26/ 10 ^d |

very Strong
The above at higher strengths
& less poisonous at advanced
prices, but equally cheap in
proportion.

*Look on me,
Me who have touched and tasted*

Milton.

WINE AND SPIRIT
ADULTERATORS UNMASKED.

THIRD EDITION,

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

A BRIEF EXPOSITION OF THE DELETERIOUS NATURE OF
BRITISH BRANDY,
AND OF THE GROSS FRAUDS WHICH ARE PRACTISED
THEREWITH.

Pro bono Publico.

BY ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

'Has any man a mind to raise himself a good estate? alas! what Dealer in the world would ever get on well, if he be so wise as to scruple at perjury, blush at a lie, or stick at any fraud or over-reaching.'—*Erasmus in praise of Folly.*

London:

J. ROBINS AND CO. IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1829.



TO THE READER.

SINCE the accompanying work was written, an alteration in the cash price of Gin, from the Rectifiers to the Trade, has taken place. The scale, however, offered to the notice of the Public, in the division, which more immediately treats on the article of Gin, in this Treatise, applies equally as well, in respect to its extensive adulteration and reduction, as though, another scale were to be exhibited, adapted to the present prices which are quoted for it. The terms which the Author has mentioned, and which are agreeable to those, at the time this work was commenced, are, for Gin twenty-two per cent. underproof 9s. 4d. and for the article at seventeen per cent. underproof 10s. per gallon.

The alteration which has taken place, renders the cash prices from the Rectifiers to the Trade, for the former strength 8s. 6d. per gallon, for the latter 9s. By some of our placarders and advertisers, Gin is now sold at the low price of 5s. 4d. per gallon, to enable them to do which, and to permit of its being vended at that sum per gallon, (allowing for the sugar and etceteras, used in sweetening and making up,) it takes *sixty-four gallons and a half of water*, and, further to admit of a profit of only 6d. per gallon, *sixteen gallons more* of the same liquid, making a total of *eighty gallons and a half of water*, to every 100 gallons of Gin at 8s. 6d. per gallon. This calculation is offered to the Reader, to show, that, although the prices which relate to the article of Gin in this Treatise, differ from those, at present fixed by the Rectifiers, yet the circumstance, does not in the least affect the general statement of facts.

DEDICATION.

To those Wine and Spirit Merchants, and Gin-shop-keepers, whose pretensions to support in business do not need the aid of puffing placards and advertisements—whose claims to public patronage rest upon an honourable and legitimate mode of dealing, and not upon a system of *trickery* and *fraud*—and whose consequent respectability and worth, ought to render them as much the objects of good will, in the estimation of their fellow-men, as the opposite class is deserving of contempt and reprobation; this little work, emanating from an humble source, but written with an honest

view to the bettering the condition of fair Traders, by placing the Public on their guard against fraudulent and deceptious Wine and Spirit concerns, is very respectfully inscribed : by

Their Obedient Servant

and Well-wisher,

THE AUTHOR.

Advertisement

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

The circumstance of having to submit a *third edition* of 'Wine and Spirit Adulterators Unmasked,' to public notice, is one, which cannot but add to the Author's feelings of gratification, because the chief end which he has had in view, has been the 'public good,' and the interests of his fair-dealing brethren, and from the large and rapid sale which has attended the publication since its first appearance, the inference may be fairly drawn that such end has in some measure been attained. Had the Author's views been of a nature connected only with personal benefit, no method whatever could have been adopted so little likely to answer his purpose as an anonymous publication, and, although he is perfectly aware that several individuals have been pointed out to be the writers of the work, yet he believes that in no single instance has any disavowal taken place on account of the statements contained in it being either incorrect or untrue, as applied to the Dealers whose practices it is intended to expose. At a time of year, too, when it is usual for the papers to teem with the advertisements of certain designing Wine Merchants and Gin-shop-keepers, when the gaudy premises of the latter begin to display their flaming placards, and all in order to effect the sale, (not of the finest articles as pretended) but of spurious mixtures, and of such Wines, &c. as

form the very refuse of the London Docks, the publication of a *third edition* may be considered as particularly fortunate, since it tends to renew in the minds of the Public, the same caution which was at first meant to be conveyed, and it may thereby, perhaps, in some measure serve to render abortive the attempts which fraudulent Dealers have recommenced, on the credulity and pockets of the People. To prove to his Readers, that the practices which he has described, do exist—to enable every one to estimate the enormous extent to which they are carried, and to demonstrate in the plainest manner, not only that the adulterations are performed as he has stated them to be, but that they must be so performed, to enable the puffing advertisers to realize the property they do, has been the Author's principal aim, and no pains have been spared in effecting his object. Unused, however, to write for public perusal, and possessed of none but plain and humble means to divulge the facts of which he had obtained the knowledge, and altogether unacquainted with the proper mode of correcting for the press, a few inaccuracies (but unimportant in themselves), appeared in the previous editions, which, from any but the pen of an unpractised writer, would not have occurred. These, as far as the Author's abilities extend, have been corrected, and in one or two of the examples, where the deficiency of an explanatory note may have made the calculations in such examples appear as incorrect, the necessary explanations have been supplied. Tests, which will, it is said, discover the presence of some of the adulterating articles, have been inserted, and nothing, in fine, has been omitted, which has suggested itself as at all likely to render every point clear and intelligible, even to those who may possess but little general information on the subject.

In the present edition the Author has also been enabled to add several facts, with which he has recently become acquainted, of the utmost importance both to the Revenue and the Public, and he has, besides, by means of two publications which have accidentally fallen in his way, (one entitled '*The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide,*' by a *Practical Man*, the other '*Palmer's Publicans' Director,*') been able to support the disclosures which he has made, and the arguments which he has used, in a way which must enforce on every mind, an absolute conviction of their accuracy and truth. What the real intentions of those publications are, it is needless to say. They will, perhaps, be sufficiently understood by the Reader, from the extracts which have been made from them in the form of notes. It is enough for the Author of this book, that the works themselves bear the most convincing and positive testimony to the truth of all which he has advanced—that they, in fact, more than support his assertions—and that, although their object appears to differ widely from his own, and they have chosen to treat the art of adulterating as if it were a science, yet that the catalogue of enormities, which they scruple not to offer to the uninitiated for their guidance in trade, far exceeds in extent even his own computations. It cannot but be evident, on a very slight consideration, that they who do not attempt to impose on the Public by specious placards and advertisements, scarcely have it in their power to palm on the Public, second rate and adulterated Wines, &c. for those of the finest and purest quality. On the one hand they have the established Wine and Spirit *Adulterators* to contend with, who deprive them of all such customers as would apply for *cheap* articles; and on the other hand the certainty of losing the custom of their connexion who

require to be served with good Wines, were they to supply them with such as are of a bad or indifferent quality.

The circumstances of advertising and placarding alone, form to a great extent the very facilities for carrying on illicit practices;—with those who are exclusively Wholesale Dealers for deteriorating Wines, and with those who are Gin-shop-keepers, and possessed of Retail and Wholesale Licences together, for adulterating both Wines and Spirits. To so great an extent, indeed, is this the case, that even were a tax of some amount, in the form of a patent or extra licence, imposed upon all Dealers who exhibit placards, or who puff in the newspapers, Wines and Spirits *at less than cost price*, Government would scarcely repay itself the sum which such a mode of conducting business is yearly made the means of defrauding it. To such facts as these, the Author would invite attention, and clearly developed as they will be found to be, in the accompanying work, they cannot but render some service to those who choose to profit by the precautionary advice which they afford, and at the same time enable the party to do that justice and give that countenance to the equitable Trader, in preference to the dishonest one, which every person, upon a fair conviction, and who feels rightly himself, must be disposed to do.

The subject on which the Author has treated, is one of general concern. To the parsimonious man it shows, that although, from flowing descriptions and enticing cheap prices, he has been induced to spend his money with the puffing advertiser, yet that he has only been paying a price for an article sold to him, perhaps, as Port or Sherry, when he might have got, for less money, of a respectable Wine Merchant, a far more wholesome and palatable ^{as} beverage, under the

denomination of Cape. To the liberal tradesman who can afford to keep a stock of Wine, and who, with a proper feeling, would wish to give his family and friends that which is wholesome and good, it points out the small dependence which is to be placed on the pompous descriptions and the inflated assertions of *certain* Dealers, and how much more consistent and profitable it would be were he to lend his support to that Trader, who, although he has, perhaps, apparently more humble claims, and enforces them less egotistically, is, in reality, possessed of greater pretensions, and of far more honest principles. To such of the nobility and gentry as may occasionally have given their countenance to some of the *concerns* which this Treatise is intended to expose, and which probably has happened more from the small notice they have bestowed on the nature of the receptacles from whence they have obtained their Wines, &c. than from any other cause, the matter which the Author has made public, cannot also but be of service. From the station in life which this class of the community occupy, they may be said, in some measure, to form the grand links in the chain of society, on which the well being of the minor ones depend, and, independently of the work placing them on their guard, as far as their own interests are concerned, it may induce them to transfer that countenance and patronage to those who are really deserving, which has been bestowed elsewhere, and, by so doing, uphold the honest and industrious tradesman, and put down the present illegitimate and (to say the least) dishonourable mode of dealing.

To have treated the inflated attempts of the Advertisers and Placarders of cheap Wines and Spirits with their proper contempt, and to have left the weaker part of the Public to have dis-

covered, from time and experience, the exact degree of credit which is to be attached to their pretensions, might, perhaps, under some circumstances, have been the wiser course. But any relaxation on the part of one who has hitherto lent his endeavours to protect the Public from imposition, and by such means to support the interests of respectable Traders as well, would seem, in some measure, to allow of the supposition that his own views had been altered on the subject, or would appear to admit the truth of whatever they please to advance. In this latter respect more particularly, since some of them have scrupled not in their advertisements, indirectly to stigmatize the characters of honourable and upright Tradesmen—such Tradesmen as have always found the *quality* of their goods to be sufficiently appreciated, to occasion any display of *superior* pretensions in the Public Journals as unnecessary, as those at present held up to view by the advertisers and placarders, are hollow and deceptive. In offering this little work for Public perusal, the Author trusts for a fair and candid construction. To himself, personally, and satisfied in his own breast with the integrity of the motives which induced him to commence its publication, the nature of the construction placed upon it, must be, in some respects, a matter of indifference, but as far as it requires a proper estimation of an Author's motives to give weight to his work, and render it useful in the way it is intended it should be, he hopes it will be afforded. To the threats and vengeance of the advertisers, the same feelings which place the Author independent of the opinion of the world, render him alike fearless and indifferent.

———— Hic murus aheneus esto,
 Nil conscire sibi. HOR.

Preface to the Second Edition.

IN offering to public notice a "*second* edition of "Wine and Spirit Adulterators Unmasked," it is a matter of no inconsiderable gratification to the Author, that he is led to anticipate, from the success which has attended the sale of the first edition, that a most beneficial result will probably ensue, to at least some part of the community, who have hitherto suffered themselves to be exposed to the dishonest speculations which he has pointed out. In the success of this little work, (so far as any pecuniary advantage is to be derived from its sale,) the Author has been, and still remains, perfectly indifferent:—to render it sufficiently public to attract a general attention to the numerous facts which it discloses has alone been his aim, and in compassing this desirable end, no expense has been, or will be spared. For the gratuitous and flattering assistance which has been afforded him, by several of the Public Journals, in effecting this object, the Author feels deeply indebted, and he cannot but thus publicly tender his grateful acknowledgments to those Journalists,* who have (uninfluenced either by the open or private remon-

* This cannot but be considered, in many respects, as highly disinterested on the part of the Journalists who have so kindly noticed the work; since the expensive advertisements of the very parties whom it is intended to put down, must occasionally prove to them a source of considerable revenue.

stances, which no doubt have been made, by some of our Advertising individuals, who, from the wealth they have so dishonestly obtained, would fain attach to themselves a greater importance than they really possess), felt it a part of their duty to co-operate with him, in guarding the Public against the pernicious and destructive practices which he has detailed.

The many truths which the Author has set forth; the arguments which he adduces, grounded only on those truths, and which are divested of any bearing whatever on theory, must, he feels convinced, strongly interest those individuals who have hitherto given their support, to what are termed the '*Cheap* Receptacles,' under the supposition that the inducements held out by their proprietors, were either founded on honesty, or any other principle of fair dealing.

To know the nature of our danger, and to be invested with the means of judging where it exists, is the best and surest protection we can have against its consequences.

These means are given in the accompanying work; and, as they are framed independently either of artificial colouring or distorted facts, they leave it in the power of the Reader, from circumstances alone, and without in the least implicating the fair and honourable Trader, to point the finger of detection at all the individuals, who must, of necessity, adopt the adulterating and deceptive practices described.

To the Revenue, the matter contained in the work, is a subject of no less importance as regards their interests, than are its contents of vital consequence to the constitutions of the Public at large. Comprising as it does, an exposition of fraud against the very resources of Government, it demands their immediate attention. It ex-

hibits, on the bare foundation of fact and demonstration alone, *frauds*, the existence of which the heads of the Revenue department can have had no possible idea of, or they would never have so effectually lent their aid, and apparent countenance, to a system, which is depriving their treasury of at least, a third, less than is its due, and which is likely to be continued in a similar, if not greater proportion, so long as the Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trades are allowed to be conducted on one and the same premises.

Should Government, therefore, so far see its true interests, and those of the Public, as to put a stop to the nefarious practices, which are now carried on, with so much impunity, by means of this system, let it beware (if only for the sake of the fair Trader), that it make not a single exception, as respects the operation of the law;—let not the claims (as they would have them termed), of some of these cheap sellers, on account of the expences they have been at, in enlarging their Gin-shop concerns, to admit the advantages of a Wholesale Trade, or for the charges which they have been put to, in fitting up their large Wine and Spirit vats, for adulterating purposes, weigh for a moment in the minds of the members of that Government, but let it rather consider, that on the part of these worthies, it is only the disgorgement of a small portion of the wealth, of which they have for so long a time, been depriving their country, and as rendering some, though comparatively trifling, retribution for the poisonous injuries which they have inflicted, and the impositions, which, for so great a period, they have been carrying on, against the health and pockets of the community at large.

The duty charged on Gin, by the Excise, is at the rate of about 5s. 5½d. per gallon, for the article

at the same rate of strength at which it is now sold by the Rectifiers, to the trade, at 8*s.* 6*d.* per gallon.

To one hundred gallons of this Gin, at 8*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, to sell at 5*s.* 4*d.* and to allow of 6*d.* per gallon profit, it takes, as has been shown, eighty gallons and a half of water, thus, at once demonstrating a loss to Government of no less a sum than 21*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* in every one hundred and eighty gallons of Gin, sold by these cheap Advertisers, amounting to an enormous sum per annum, when it is considered that several of our large Gin-shops, in the period of twenty-eight days, have decreases (independently of what has been sent out by permit), of between two and three thousand gallons, and out of which quantity, it is more than probable, that only sixteen or eighteen hundred gallons have paid the duty, which is imposed on the article of Gin.

To the poor dram drinkers, alas ! who, under the present system have but few means of supplying themselves with Wines and Spirits of a less poisonous nature than those to which they are now accustomed, any appeal would be in vain, they are totally out of the reach of either warning or preventive from this, or indeed any other source ; for although the vision of death were to appear in each glass of liquor, which they place to their lips, such is the infatuation which encompasses them, that it is scarcely to be questioned, whether even that would deter them from the deadly draught.

To the individuals, however, who do not belong to this class, the case is widely different ; they have the remedy, in a great measure, in their own hands, and to them this Treatise may be considered as more particularly addressed. It enables them to judge where the impositions and adultera-

tions, which it describes, are carried on;—it points out the discrepancies in the Excise Laws, which at particular concerns, admit of those impositions and adulterations;—it exhibits how the Wholesale Advertiser, is enabled to adopt the same practices with regard to Wine, as the Wholesale and Retail cheap seller;—it demonstrates that adulterations and impositions must be practised, to allow of Wines and Spirits, being vended at the low prices, at which they are offered for sale;—it exposes the *vat* system, affords information of the tricks played with the size of bottles, by dishonest Traders, and shows how some of the proprietors of Advertising and Placarding Gin-shops, and other cheap concerns, are so well able to rival the nobility in the splendour of their equipages.

The writer is anonymous, (and although he would fain not be so, did circumstances permit his being otherwise, or if he desired to advance ungrounded or false accusations,) yet as a natural consequence, various opinions have been mentioned in his presence, some of which he would briefly notice. It has been said, that so open a disclosure as is made in this work, is calculated to do mischief amongst the trade generally, inasmuch, as its contents are qualified to furnish several with information, who before were ignorant, and of which, they may now, be induced to avail themselves, thus spreading the evil consequences of adulteration. It is a fact which the Author believes can be borne out by nearly every individual in the Wine and Spirit trade, who is engaged in supplying persons of the same business, as well as private families, that, there are but a very few individuals indeed, who would be likely to avail themselves of the exposures which this work contains, who are not, either in a greater or less de-

gree, acquainted with the secrets already. To persons who are desirous of commencing an adulterating business, and who consider the exposures may be of some service, and inasmuch, as the work may perhaps be the means of saving them the expence of paying those for the secrets, who make it a part of their trade to dispose of them as a merchantable commodity, it may, doubtless, be a valuable acquisition. The good effects, however, of the publication, it is hoped, do not depend on a few exceptions which may be taken to its general utility. It is designed,—if possible, to guard the Public against adulterating concerns, to induce them, if only for their own sakes, to give that support to the fair and honest Trader, which has hitherto been so lavishly bestowed on the cheap venders of Wines and Spirits, on account of their puffing placards and advertisements only, and, by these means, to bring the latter class to some principle of equitable and honourable dealing.

In publishing this Treatise, the Author is, as he has already stated in it, totally uninfluenced by any personal or malignant feeling, to any advertising individual in particular, and he can, as truly affirm, that the information he has given, has been drawn from sources, which can never implicate him as one, who has himself indulged in the practices which he describes, even (but which is scarcely probable) should he ever be discovered.

That it would excite the rancour of the Advertisers and Placarders the Author was prepared to expect, though not that it would operate to so great an extent as to occasion some of the more opulent of one of the classes which it exposes, (namely the Gin-shop-keepers), to threaten with annihilation, any individual, of their own community, whom they should detect to be the writer of such terrific disclosures; and the means of effect-

ing which to be by opening an advertising concern, as near as possible to the premises of the unfortunately detected individual, and, from the more knowing advantages they possess, in the methods of underselling, and from the notoriety and wealth they have acquired, to render a sacrifice to themselves, of no great consequence, completely to destroy his only means of subsistence. Lest, therefore, a suspicion against some innocent person should have arisen, and which it appears may be the cause of his ruin, the Author begs most solemnly to state that, however *equivocal* the information may be, which he has afforded, *he is not, nor ever has been, one of themselves*, and that although his reasons for writing thus anonymously, are perhaps that he does not choose unnecessarily to lay himself open, to the combined vengeance of the host, which the contents of the work exposes, (for they are many,) yet, whatever he is, or may prove to be, (should discovery as to his person ever take place,) he is one who neither fears their malice, nor the utmost stretch of their resentment.

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I.

Antonio. Hold you content: What, man? I know them, yea,
And what they weigh, even to the utmost scruple.

Much Ado.

IN addressing the Public on a subject of such importance as the detection and exposure of fraud, especially when the health and comfort of all classes of the community are concerned, it is necessary, to a forcible and efficient appeal, that the person so addressing himself have considerable experience relative to the nature of the frauds intended to be exposed, and that he be able to produce facts, in support of the arguments, which he may see it necessary to advance.

That I can enforce the object I have in view, in both these respects, I have every expectation; and I trust, that my labours may operate as some check to the continuance of that, which really exists, as a most serious evil.

That the sale, through the medium of advertisements and printed bills, of a spurious article for the genuine, deserves the ex-

posure of every honest tradesman, and, if the fact be proved, the reprobation of every member of society, I should think no one will attempt to deny, as the character of the former, and the health and pockets of the latter, both essentially suffer by the system; and as an old Wine and Spirit Merchant, retired from business, with a competency, acquired by fair trading, no feeling of pique, as to the injury caused to my own pursuits by the system I feel it my duty to reprobate, can be supposed to have suggested the idea of opening the eyes of the public, to the fraudulent practices it conceals; or, in so doing, to influence me in offering any other, than an impartial and matter-of-fact statement.

Having a few vacant moments on my hands, and from my youth having been accustomed to an active life, I was induced, in order to occupy my leisure, to commence this treatise* for the information of my own circle of acquaintance; nor should I have been prevailed on, to offer it to the notice of the public, but for a late trial in the

* Since penning the chief part of this treatise, I have observed some clever articles on the same subject in Nos. 516, 517, 518, of the Literary Gazette.

Court of Exchequer, for adulteration,* and the additional incitement, occasioned by a conviction of the influence, which the present system of imposition (through the means of advertisements and printed bills), is gaining on the public mind.

We have lately witnessed mining and other wild speculations, by which the pockets of hundreds have been emptied, and their estates ruined. We have seen too, the long advertisements, in which great and splendid advantages were offered to those who chose to embark in them:—the most unbounded wealth promised and expected.

In those instances, however, the results have discovered the impositions, and exposed (though conveyed under fine high sounding expressions,) the adulteration of principle, (if I may be allowed the term) to what has been proved to be, false and deceptive purposes. We have blamed those persons who, under the supposition that all the professions were genuine, were induced to embark in such undertakings, and who

* Attorney-General *versus* Oldfield, to which I shall have occasion to refer when I arrive at another part of my subject.

found, by sad experience, they had been deceived by spurious articles.

Notwithstanding, the credulity of the public is not exhausted. Other and not less egregious impositions are now placed before them by *Advertising and Placarding Wine and Spirit Merchants*, the falsehood of whose pretensions, are, in some respects, more easily detected, as the Duties on Wines and Spirits, and their cost at the Docks, are generally known; and it must therefore appear, in a great degree, extraordinary, to persons unacquainted with the intricacies of the business, how it is possible, for those advertisers and placarders, to sell their articles at a *less* price, than their *real* and *apparent* cost. I think, I shall discharge a valuable duty, if I clear up the mystery, and prove, that, instead of vending on lower terms than others, and gaining *less* profit, they are absolutely realizing *larger* profits than respectable persons in the trade, although they resort to so expensive a plan, as that of advertising in the newspapers, and distributing printed bills, &c.

But, as my object in this treatise is as much to expose the adulterations and impositions which are practised with Spirits

as well as Wine, I will commence with a few remarks on the former, and illustrate my position by calculations, whereby the public will be enabled, to see behind the curtain.

And here, I wish it to be clearly understood, that, as one professing the feelings and principles of a fair tradesman, and who can conscientiously affirm that he has been such, and only such, it is not my intention to bear hard on the whole of any one class of *Advertising* and *Placarding* Wine and Spirit Merchants, indiscriminately, for the delinquency of a part, any further, than I am supported by unanswerable facts; but merely to show, that, such impositions and adulterations do exist, and in what manner, and by whom, they are chiefly practised; to the detriment of the honest trader, and the sacrifice of the health and pockets of those, to whom, alas! 'ignorance is bliss.'

It is, however, a singular fact, that the majority of our *Spirit* Advertisers and Placarders is composed of Gin-shop-keepers; but, as there is no Spirit whatever so much adulterated, or with which, (through the medium of cheap prices,) so much deception is practised, as with the article of Gin, it may not appear altogether so extraor-

dinary that, having attained a proficiency in the art of selling the one at less than cost price, they should form the majority also of those, who advertise Wines on the same curious terms.

But, as I have already stated, that my aim is not against any class of dealers in particular, any further, than the facts themselves extend to them; but, to protect my fellow-citizens from imposition, and the honest Wine Merchant from the charge of exacting extravagant profits, I will endeavour first to show, the relative facility possessed by the Advertising Wine Merchant, and that by the Advertising Gin-shop-keeper; though, with respect to the article of Spirits, I fear it will almost exclusively apply to the latter, as one of the most essential requisites on which to found the means must be a *Retail Licence*;^{*} and to those, therefore, of my readers who belong to the middling and poorer ranks of society, and others, who purchase at these recep-

^{*} In addition to this Retail Licence, any Gin-shop-keeper may possess a Wholesale Licence, by paying ten pounds per annum extra, and may conduct the two branches of business attached to them, on one and the same premises; thus, from this circumstance alone, he is placed far above an equality with the Wine Merchant who has only a Wholesale Licence.

tacles, under the supposition that they are served with the genuine article, at a cheaper rate, this part of my subject may be considered, as of more particular and vital importance.

The means whereby adulteration is so successfully and securely carried on by the Retail or Gin-shop Advertiser and Placarder, are, by his making use of the decreases, which daily occur in his stock of Spirits, from what he sells over his bar, between the periods on which his Excise Officer surveys it ; and, as he cannot be required to render any account of such decreases under the present system, the facilities for avoiding any detection of adulterating practices, are great indeed.

Or, if it happen, that, in any particular article of Spirits, the officer finds no decrease from the last stock, (although it be well known to him that a portion of that particular article had been sold, and whatever may be the suspicions which he entertains from this circumstance,) he is equally incapacitated from requiring, and the dealer saved from giving, unless he please, any reason why, a decrease or less quantity does not appear.

With the cheap advertiser, however, pos-

sessed only of a Wholesale Licence, which does not allow him to send out a less quantity than two gallons, the case is widely different; for, not only is every article of Spirits, with its strength, which is sent from his stock, taken an account of, but for any decrease that may appear in that stock, (no matter from what cause,*) beyond five gallons per cent. he is subject to a heavy fine. Hence it follows, that, very few persons indeed, if any, having only Wholesale Licenses, are found to advertise cheap Spirits, and, if they do, it is at con-

* One of the first convictions which took place under this regulation, was, I believe, with a Wine Merchant who had a large connexion in the navy, and who pleaded (on a decrease of more than five gallons per cent. being found in his stock of Spirits) that he had been treating several of his naval customers with Punch, &c. but as the commissioners did not think he possessed a sufficient number to cause the decrease, his plea was rejected: what makes the circumstance exceedingly singular, was his having been one of the persons who proposed and assisted in the framing of the Act. The object of entailing a penalty for this offence, was, for the purpose of protecting the Gin-shop-keeper, against the wholesale dealer acting as a retailer; but, as the former has no difficulty with his decreases, (although having a Wholesale Licence in addition to his Retail one,) as he has only to account for them, as having been occasioned by what he has sold over his bar in small quantities, how amply to his benefit, the object is fulfilled, I leave others to surmise.

siderably higher prices than those quoted by the class of Gin-shop-keepers ; and their means of doing so at all, may be considered, with but few exceptions, to arise more from the inferior quality of the Spirits, than from any great extent of adulteration. To begin, however, with the article of

COGNAC BRANDY.

The prices, as I have gathered them from sundry advertisements and placards, and from the numerous printed bills left at my house (to the great annoyance of myself and servants), at which the advertising dealers propose to sell the very finest qualities of this Brandy, are 27*s.* 6*d.* ; 26*s.* ; 25*s.* 6*d.* ; 24*s.* ; and 23*s.* 6*d.* per gallon ; but, when I shall have shown to my readers, as I will do, that, notwithstanding all the heavy expenses which attach to this article, and that, although no description of it is to be purchased at any thing like even the highest of the advertised prices, an enormous profit is realized by the placarders, I almost question whether many will not feel a desire to engage in such an extremely lucrative traffic. In order, however, to enable the Reader to understand the manner in which the adulteration of

this article is performed, I shall describe shortly, the materials, which enter into the composition of the spurious Brandy, which generally comprises the stock of the Advertising Wine and Spirit Merchant.

The methods, by which Cognac Brandy is adulterated, are various; but, they are all effected by the admixture of the following articles, with such portion of it, as will answer the intention of the cheap seller. In some instances the whole, in others, only a part of them are introduced; and the number, quantity, and proportions in which they are used, are regulated by the experience, which the placarder has acquired, of the public taste.

| | |
|--|---|
| Spanish or Bor- deaux Brandy. | Brandies of very inferior quality to Cognac. They are but seldom used by the advertising retailer, as they pay the same duty as Cognac, and therefore approach too nearly the same expense, to serve as a profitable basis. I believe, however, that they, are frequently sold genuine (except only a <i>slight</i> reduction in strength) by the <i>Wholesale Spirit Advertiser</i> , under the title of ' <i>Curious old soft flavored Cognac, ten years old.</i> ' |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| Old Neu- tral-fla- vored Rum. | Neutral-flavored Rum, is such, as bears the least flavor. It must be of the finest quality. By some of our cheap sellers, however, the highest marks of Wedderburn's Rums are preferred as also possessing properties, which |
|--|--|

are admirably adapted for adulterating Brandy. The prices of both vary from 13s. 9d. to 14s. 6d. per gallon, without the overproof, if purchased by the puncheon, but if in smaller quantities, the cost is at a higher rate.

Rectified Spirits.

By Rectified Spirits, is not meant the usual Spirits of Wine, though now sold by our Rectifiers, in some respects, under the same regulation. The difference between the two articles in their manufacture is, that the Rectified Spirits of which I now speak, is distilled from better and cleaner Spirits, and afterwards rectified to extract the essential oil, in order to render it as *tasteless* as possible; whilst Spirits of Wine is generally made, from the feints and refuse of all other Spirits and Compounds put together; and undergoes, only the simple process of distillation. It is sold under the denomination of plain Spirits, and is to be bought at twenty-five per cent. overproof for about 15s. 7d. per gallon, including the overproof; and, therefore, when reduced to proof, costs only 12s. 5½d. per gallon, as the following will show :

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| 100 gals. of Rectified Spirits at 15s. 7d. | 77 | 18 | 4 |
| 25 gals. of water to reduce it to proof | | | |
| <u>makes up 125 gals. proof Rectified Spirits at</u> | | | |
| <u>12s. 5½d. $\frac{95}{25}$ is</u> | <u>£77</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>4</u> |

It may be requisite, however, just to observe, that, all dealers are restricted from keeping Rectified Spirits in stock, or sending it out at a less strength than it is received in at.

But as the retailer has to render no other account of its disposal to his Excise Officer, (should there be a decrease,) when the stock is taken, than is afforded by the permits he has had occasion to draw for sending out two gallons of it or upwards, such a restriction does not in the least interfere with his means of using it in any Spirit he pleases.

British Brandy Bitters.

British Brandy Bitters is used to fill up the flavor, but comparatively in small quantities, as it is exceedingly powerful: it is usually composed of

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rectified Spirits, | Chamomile Flowers, |
| Cassia, | Orange Peel, |
| Carraways, | &c. &c. |

The cost is about 9s. 6d. per gallon.

British Brandy.

An imitation of French: the compound of which, previously to distillation, consists generally of the following proportionate ingredients:

80 gals. of Rectified Spirits, 50 overproof.
 7 gallons of Vinegar.
 12 ounces of Orris Root.
 15 pounds of Raisins.
 2 pounds of Vitriol.

The cost price is from 13s. to 14s. per gallon, twenty-two per cent. underproof.

Cherry- laurel Water.

This is intended to answer the same purpose as British Brandy Bitters, but is more generally made use of, because the quantity of it applied does not prevent a trial of the strength of the Brandy by the hydrometer. Its qualities are highly pernicious, and even poisonous.

**Extract
of Al-
mond
Cake.**

Extract of Almond Cake is prepared by keeping a quantity of the Cake in Spirits of Wine for a long time. It is intended to impart to adulterated Brandy a taste resembling the fine kernel flavor which the genuine article possesses.

**Extract
of Capsi-
cums, and
Extract
of Grains
of Para-
dise.**

Known in the trade by the denomination of 'Devil.' The Extract of Capsicums is made by putting a quantity of the small East India Chillies into a bottle of Spirits of Wine, and keeping it closely stopped for about a month. The same process is performed with Grains of Paradise. The purposes of both are obvious from their natures. They are used to impart an appearance of strength by the hot pungent flavor which they infuse into the Spirit requiring their aid. They are mixed separately, according to the opinions of the maker-up as to which answers the purpose best; their properties being similar, with respect to their giving a hot taste in the mouth, which passes for strength with the persons imposed upon.

**Colour-
ing,
Sugar, &c.**

Colouring consists merely of a preparation of burnt sugar. It is employed to bring up the colour of Brandy which may have become too pale by the preceding mixtures. It is used to answer the same end with Rum. The reasons for the application of *sugar* will be seen in the course of my remarks.

My Readers being thus necessarily informed of chief of the ingredients*

* From the books, to which I have alluded in the Preface to the present edition, as having evidently been written for

which compose the various adulterations of Brandy, after a few further remarks, in order to render them still better acquainted

the purpose of instructing and aiding fraudulent dealers in their illicit practices, I have quoted the following and subsequent passages, in order to show that the testimony I have offered, is absolutely borne out and supported to the greatest possible extent, from quarters whose authority is unquestionable.

‘*To improve the flavor of Brandy. A quarter of an ounce of English Saffron, and half an ounce of Mace, steeped in a pint of Brandy for ten days, shaking it once or twice a-day ; then strain it through a linen-cloth, and add one ounce of Terra Japonica, finely powdered, and three ounces of Spirits of Sweet Nitre ; put it to ten gallons of Brandy, adding, at the same time, ten pounds of Prunes, bruised.*’

‘*To give to new Brandy all the qualities of old. To one gallon of new Brandy add thirty drops of Aqua Ammonia, (to be had at the chemists,) shaking it well that it may combine with the acid, on which the taste and other qualities of the new liquor depend.*’ Vide, *The Vintners’ and Licensed Victuallers’ Guide, by a Practical Man*. Second edition, 1826.

‘As there is a great difference in the price of British and foreign Brandy, one being at this time (“*previously to the measures being altered*”) about thirteen shillings per gallon, and the other twenty-four shillings per gallon, the following recipe will enable Publicans to prepare a Brandy between the two prices, as follows :

4 quarts Cognac Brandy.

3 — British ditto.

4 ounces Sugar Candy dissolved in the water to
make up 2 gallons.

This will make good Brandy to sell at twenty shillings ; the

with the nature of the subject, I will offer to their notice such Examples as shall clearly prove the facts I have advanced:

By a late Act of Parliament all dealers are allowed to reduce Brandy, Rum, Arrack, Hollands, &c. to any degree of strength not less than seventeen per cent. underproof,* by Sykes's Hydrometer:† but

same rule will instruct you to make it at a less price, by substituting a small quantity of *Spirits of Wine*, and adding more water in lieu of the foreign Brandy.' Vide, *Palmer's Publicans' Director*. Second edition, 1826.

* My acquaintance with the Wine trade has been very extensive, and enables me to state that I have never known any of those individuals who carried on what may be termed the more respectable business, (that is, where the Wine Merchant depended more on the quality of his article than on any extraordinary cheapness in price,) to keep their Brandies and Rums, &c. at a less strength than six or eight per cent. underproof, although they were allowed by the Act to reduce them to seventeen per cent. underproof.

† I have borrowed the following extract from Accum's *Culinary Poisons* (page 235), as affording the clearest definition of the terms underproof and overproof, and the nature of the hydrometer: he says, 'By the Excise Laws at present existing in this country, the various degrees of strength of Brandy, Rum, Arrack, Gin, Whisky, and all other spirituous liquors, chiefly composed of little else than *Spirits of Wine*, are determined by the quantity of alcohol, of a given specific gravity, contained in the spirituous liquor of a supposed unknown strength. The great public importance of this subject in this country, where the consumption of spirituous liquors adds a vast sum to the public

that trade must be very poor indeed which does not allow a retail dealer to keep, (without the fear of detection,) a stock of ten or twenty gallons of both Brandy and Rum

revenue, has been the means of instituting many very interesting experiments on the subject. The instrument used for that purpose, by the Customs and Officers of the Excise, is called Sykes's hydrometer, which has superseded the instrument called Clarke's hydrometer, heretofore in use. The specific gravity or strength of the legal standard Spirit of Excise is technically called *proof*, or *proof* Spirit. "This liquor (*not being sweetened, or having any ingredients dissolved in it to defeat the strength thereof*), at the temperature of 51° Fahrenheit, weighs exactly $\frac{12}{13}$ parts of an equal measure of distilled water;" and with this Spirit, the strengths of all other spirituous liquors are compared according to law. The strength of Brandy, Rum, Arrack, Gin, and other spirituous liquors *weaker* than proof, or *below* proof, is estimated by the quantity of water which would be necessary to bring the Spirit up to proof. The *hydrometer* is calculated to show the per centage of strength above or below proof, as the case may be, of the Spirit submitted to trial. The stem of the instrument is graduated, and so subdivided, as to meet every variety in the strength of the liquor to be examined which may fall between the weights (nine in number) used with the instrument; the divisions and subdivisions on the hydrometer, which remain above the surface of the liquor in which the instrument is made to swim, being added to the number on the weight used, and together forming the indication. But as the difference of temperature affects materially the specific gravity of spirituous liquors, a thermometer and tables of the concentration of strength, as denoted by the hydrometer, are used in the application of the instrument. The Officer of Excise

always on hand, at twenty or even twenty-five per cent. underproof.* The duty on Brandy, per imperial gallon, is 22s. 6d.; and the cost at this time of good fair Brandy

has, therefore, only to turn to the tables opposite the indication, and immediately under the temperature he finds the per centage of the strength of the liquor; for example,

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Weight used | | 50 |
| Subdivision shown by the hydrometer | | $\frac{1\frac{2}{10}}{51\frac{2}{25}}$ |

Temperature by the Thermometer 68°.

Opposite $51\frac{2}{10}$ in the column of indication, and under the 68th degree of temperature, is $8\frac{4}{10}$ per cent. above or over proof; “*had, however, the weight 60 been required, instead of weight 50, at the same degree of temperature, the indication would have been $61\frac{2}{10}$ and the strength $6\frac{2}{10}$ per cent. below or underproof.*”

‘Brandy and Rum is seizable if sold by, or found in the possession of, the Dealer, unless it possess a certain strength (seventeen per cent. underproof by Sykes’s hydrometer).’ The following are the words of the Act, (30 Geo. 3, c. 37, sec. 31.) No distiller, rectifier, compounder, or dealer, shall serve or send out any *foreign Spirits* of a lower strength than that of one in six, under hydrometer proof, according to Clarke’s hydrometer, (*equivalent to seventeen per cent. below proof according to Sykes’s hydrometer,*) nor have in his possession any foreign Spirits mixed together, except Cherry or Raspberry Brandy, of lower strength, than as aforesaid, upon pain of such Spirits being forfeited, and such Spirits, with the casks and vessels containing the same, may be seized by any Officer of Excise.

* As a proof that I do not exaggerate facts, about a week since, when in town, I sent my servant to purchase a bottle

from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per gallon, independently of the usual reckoning of 10d. per gallon as interest on duty: for example—

| | £. | s. | d. | | £. | s. | d. |
|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Duty . | 1 | 2 | 6 | Duty . | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Cost . | 0 | 4 | 6 | Cost . | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Advance of money | 0 | 0 | 10 | Advance of money | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Per gal . | <u>£1</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>10</u> | Per gal. . | <u>£1</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>4</u> |

Thus, then, the first costs 27s. 10d. per gallon, the latter 28s. 4d.; to which, if we add the expense of cartage, servants' wages, waste of strength, &c. (but without any allowance for the *trifling* charges of advertising, &c.) as at 8d. per gallon, it renders the average cost 28s. 6d. and 29s. per gallon. The prices at which this is sold by the equitable Wine Merchant to his

of Brandy and Rum, at one of our largest Advertising and Placarding Gin-shops, by way of experiment. On trying their relative strength, I found the Rum thirty-two per cent. underproof, the Brandy I supposed to be about twenty-eight or thirty per cent. under; but as the latter had been sweetened, which prevents its being proved by the hydrometer, I was obliged to decide by comparing its apparent strength with that of the Rum. The taste of both, however, was so filled up with artificial heat and flavor, that it would be a difficult matter for any one unacquainted with the secret to tell, by the palate, whether, either of them were not considerably stronger.

private customers is at an advance of from 3s. to 4s. 6d. per gallon; on which he has to give six, twelve, and, in many instances, eighteen months' credit; and, to those of his connexion, who (as dealers) have to sell it again, at an advance only of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per gallon; but, when it is considered, that, with regard to the latter, very heavy bad debts* are frequently incurred, I do not think, at the very outside, the profits realized average more than from five, to six and a half per cent. per annum; and the only reason which I can conceive for the sale of an article (attended with so small and disproportionate a profit for so great a risk of loss) being continued, by those who sell it genuine, is, that, it frequently becomes the means of introducing the sale of other commodities, to which a greater remuneration is attached; in short, it is what is usually denominated in trade, a leading article.

Having thus, however, shown what the

* In many concerns I know it to be a fact, owing to the enormous advance of money for duty on Brandy, which renders a bad debt with this article extremely heavy, that, so far from gaining any per centage at all, upon a calculation of the profits and loss for a twelvemonth, the loss has exceeded the amount of profits as much as ten and fifteen per cent. and, in some instances, considerably more.

cost of the article is, to supply it of fair and genuine quality, (the correctness of which must be known to several, and may be easily ascertained by all my Readers,) I will now proceed to give some examples, which will disclose to the public the golden secret, by which the placarding dealers are enabled to sell, as Brandy at 24s. per gallon, that, which costs about twenty per cent. more.

Example 1 :—

To make up 100 gallons of '*full proof Brandy*,' to cost

only 21s. $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ $\frac{52}{100}$

50 gals. of fine Cognac s. d. £. s. d.

Brandy, proof . . . at 29 0 per gal. 72 10 0

31 gals. of Old Neutral-flavored Rum, previously

reduced to proof . . . 13 0 ----- 20 3 0

9 gals. of Old Neutral-flavored Rum, twenty-five

per cent. overproof, including overproof . . . 16 6 ----- 7 8 6

10 gals. of British Brandy, twenty-two per cent.

underproof . . . 13 6 ----- 6 15 0

100 gals. of *full proof Brandy* at 21s. $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ $\frac{52}{100}$ —106. 16. 6

To the above must be added—

1 pint of Colouring.

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint of Cherry-laurel Water.

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint of Extract of Almond Cake.

| | |
|------|---|
| | 20 |
| 100) | 2136(21. $4\frac{1}{4}.$ $\frac{52}{100}$ |
| | gals. 200 per gal. |
| | <u>136</u> |
| | 100 |
| | <u>36</u> |
| | 12 |
| | <u>100)438(4d.</u> |
| | 400 |
| | <u>38</u> |
| | 4 |
| | <u>100)152($\frac{1}{4}$</u> |
| | 100 |
| | <u>52</u> |

Thus, then, by the process I have described, may be produced 100 gallons of '*Full Proof Brandy*,' which will bear to be tried by the hydrometer, and the cost of which is, but 21s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon, imperial measure. When eighty-three* gallons of this proof made-up Brandy shall have

* In the former editions of this work, an error, *numerically speaking*, occurred, which is here corrected. It arose from the apparent mis-statement that to reduce 100 gallons of proof Brandy to seventeen per cent. underproof, it would take seventeen gallons of water, whereas, by calculation, it would require rather better than twenty gallons. As, for instance, in making up 100 gallons of proof Spirit, say, to ten per cent. underproof, you do not put ten gallons of water to 100 gallons of proof Spirit, but to ninety gallons only of the latter, the ratio of strength not being given by *adding* a quantity of water equal to the intended per centage, to 100 gallons, but merely by *combining* the quantity of water to denote the per centage of strength underproof, with so much of proof Spirit as will cause the *mixture* to form exactly 100 gallons in the whole. Owing, however, to the great difference in the specific gravity of the water usually employed in the reduction of spirituous liquors, and that of Spirit itself, it generally happens (except distilled water be used, which, from obvious reasons, is never the case), that the water and Spirit, even when well mixed together, becomes so badly concentrated, as to occasion the compound, when tried by the hydrometer, to show at a degree of strength considerably lower than intended ; consequently, if the article should be meant to be only at seventeen per cent. underproof, and the exact proportion of water, according to the calculation, should be added,

been reduced to seventeen per cent. under-proof (the lowest strength at which Government allows it to be sold), by the addition of seventeen gallons of water, with a large proportion of *Colouring, Extract of Almond Cake, Cherry-laurel Water, and Extract of Capsicums*, it will have cost only 17s. 10d. per gallon, as the following will show.

Example 2:—

| | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 83 gals. of proof made-up Brandy, as in | £. | s. | d. |
| example the first, at 1l. 1s. 4½d. $\frac{52}{100}$ | 89. | 3. | 3½ $\frac{16}{100}$ |
| 17 gals. of Water. | 20 | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| * $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2} \text{ pint of Colouring} \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{ pint of Ex. of Almond Cake} \\ \frac{1}{4} \text{ pint of Cherry-laurel Water} \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{ pint of Ex. of Capsicums} \end{array} \right\}$ | 100) | 1783 | (17. 9¾ $\frac{98}{100}$ |
| | | gals. 100 | per gal. |
| | additl. | 783 | s. d. |
| | | 700 | say 17. 10 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 100 gals. of Brandy, 17 per cent. under- | 83 | | |
| proof, at 17s. 9¾d. $\frac{98}{100}$ per gallon. | 12 | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| * The quantity of the article | 100) | 999 | (9d. |
| increased by these ingre- | | 900 | |
| dients pays their expense. | | 99 | |
| | | 4 | |
| | | 100) | 398 ($\frac{8}{4}$ |
| | | 300 | |
| | | 98 | |
| | | <hr/> | |

The Reader will also perceive, by the

it would render the Spirit liable to be seized by the officer, on account of its appearing to be below the legal standard. Previously to my committing the above Example to paper,

calculation in Example the first, that by increasing or diminishing the different proportions of either one or the other of the articles used, a corresponding difference in the cost price, may be obtained accordingly.

Thus, by adding twenty gallons and three quarts, or twenty-seven gallons and a half of water, instead of seventeen, with a still greater proportion of the flavoring ingredients mentioned, to eighty-three gallons of the proof manufactured Brandy at 21s. $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ $\frac{52}{100}$ per gallon, which causes the strength to be at twenty and twenty-five per cent. underproof, we have the cost prices reduced to about 17s. 2d. and 16s. $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon. As, however, it can only be done to the extent of the first Example, by the largest of our Gin-shop Placarders, without the danger of dis-

I had tried one or two experiments on a small scale, with common river water, and found the result to be such as I had shown it, viz. that the quantity of water to designate the per centage *added* to the 100 gallons, gave by the hydrometer, as nearly as possible, the degree of strength required. As, however, there can be little doubt but that the unfair dealers adopt the most advantageous method of the two, I have thought it proper, in this edition, to place the Example in its present corrected form. It will be seen to demonstrate a much greater rate of profit in their favor, the former Examples making the reduced price appear as at 18s. 3d. per gallon, the present 17s. 10d. per gallon.

covery, it is by others, whose consumption is not so extensive, usually made up in quantities of ten, fifteen, or twenty gallons, as opportunity serves.

And here it may very naturally be inquired, how this can be effected without the Exciseman (whose duty it is to prevent such imposition) being able to detect it. I will propose a short case, which I think will fully explain why there are so few chances of his doing so, and the rarity of any detection is notorious. A Retail and Wholesale Licenced Dealer's stock is taken on the eighteenth of November: we will suppose it then to consist of,

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Proof Cognac Brandy, | Proof neutral- flavored Rum, | Neutral-fla- vored Rum, | British Bran- dy, 22 percent. |
| 110 gallons. | 100 gallons. | 25 per cent. overproof, | underproof, |
| | | 50 gallons. | 40 gallons. |

The officer does not again survey this stock for a period of twenty-eight days; and the Dealer has sold during the intermediate time, in quantities which are *less** than two gallons, as follows:

* For any quantity which a Gin-shop-keeper, who is possessed of a Wholesale Licence, may send out from his stock, of two gallons or upwards, he is obliged to draw a permit, the same as those who are exclusively Wholesale Dealers; and, if he had to account for the decreases occa-

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Proof Cognac Brandy, | Proof neutral- flavored Rum, | Neutral-fla- vored Rum, 25 per cent. overproof. | British Bran- dy, 22 per cent. underproof, 3 gallons. |
| 60 gallons. | 35 gallons. | 20 gallons. | |

These several amounts, deducted from the stock on the eighteenth of November, leave the amount of what it should be, when the Exciseman again surveys it. For example,

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Stock as taken on the 18th of Nov. when the officer last sur- veyed. | Proof Cognac Brandy, 110 gals. | Proof neutral- flavored Rum, 100 gals. | Neutral- flavored Rum, 25 per cent. overproof, 50 gals. | British Brandy, 22 per cent. un- derproof, 40 gals. |
| Sold or sent out in the in- termediate time. | 60 do. — | 35 do. — | 20 do. — | 3 do. — |
| Amount of what the stock should be, when the officer sur- veys it. | 50 gals.* ===== | 65 gals.† ===== | 30 gals.‡ ===== | 37 gals.§ ===== |

sioned by what is disposed of, in smaller quantities, or, if the system were so altered as to admit of some such check, he would be equally as much restricted from adulterating, as those are, who are only Wholesale Dealers. As, however, any account of the kind cannot be kept under the present regulation, and the Gin-shop-keeper is constantly diminishing his stock over his Retail bar, it does not in the least affect his means of adulterating any article he pleases,

Previously, however, to his officer's visit, the Dealer adds, as in example first,*

| | | |
|-------|----|--|
| † | 31 | gallons of Proof neutral-flavored Rum, |
| ‡ | 9 | gallons of neutral-flavored Rum, 25 per cent. overproof, |
| § and | 10 | gallons of British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof, to his remaining |
| * | 50 | gallons of Proof Cognac Brandy, |

as he is still able to do it, to within a very little (for the sake of appearances), of what he has sold in quantities which are less than two gallons; or, in other words, to nearly the extent of such decreases in his stock, as are not accounted for, by the permits he has drawn. In the case above stated, in order to render it plainer to my Readers, I have supposed, that, no quantity requiring a permit, has been sold or sent from the stock:

* It will be observed that the asterisks which are placed against the different quantities of Spirits supposed to be mixed together, refer to those placed at the bottom of the preceding page, against the quantities which show what the amount of the Dealer's stock ought properly to be. The first three amounts, viz. † 31 gallons, ‡ 9 gallons, and § 10 gallons are to be deducted from the quantities to which these asterisks correspond, and are supposed to be added to the * 50 gallons, which is also referred to by a distinguishing mark, thus demonstrating the stock to be as stated in continuation.

Thus rendering his stock as consisting of,

| Proof made-up | | Neutral flavor- | British Brandy |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brandy, but taken as Cognac, | Proof neutral flavored Rum, | ed Rum, 25 per cent. overproof, | 22 per cent. underproof, |
| 100 gals.* | 34 gals.† | 21 gals.‡ | 27 gals.§ |

* This, we perceive should be only fifty gallons, according to the decrease occasioned by what has been sold; yet, as the addition of the above articles, though rendering the retailer's stock as one hundred gallons instead of fifty, still enables him to retain a decrease of ten gallons from his last stock, for instance, Last stock 110
Present do. 100
Decrease 10

He has thus managed to introduce, without the fear of detection, fifty gals. of manufactured Brandy, which when exhausted, he can again make up as circumstances permit.

† This, by looking at the account of what the stock of proof Rum ought properly to be, we see, should appear as sixty-five gallons. Thus, at the same time, the proper decrease of thirty-five gallons (the quantity which the dealer has sold), is altered to sixty-six gallons, by his having taken 31 gals. more of the same Rum to transform into Brandy.

‡ The same may be said of this as of the proof Rum. The dealer has taken nine gals. to assist him in manufacturing his Brandy, consequently making the quantity he has sold appear as twenty-nine gals. instead of twenty, and altering his stock, which should be thirty gallons, to twenty-one gallons only.

§ This, we see, should be 37 gallons. Our retailer, however, having occasion to take ten gallons of it to add to his Cognac Brandy, thus lessens his stock of British Brandy that quantity, and causes the amount of what he has sold of it, to appear as thirteen gallons instead of three gallons only. The officer supposes he has sold thirteen gallons, and, as it is no part of his duty to require an account of the decreases (however disproportionate), overlooking its impossibility under the present system, its correctness is never questioned.

The Exciseman attends, and takes this as the Dealer's stock; he finds there is no increase in any of the articles since his last visit; concludes it is all right; and, without any possible means on his part to prove it otherwise, it is passed as correct.

Thus then we see, that, even without any diminution of strength, the opportunities which a Gin-shop Advertiser has of adulterating his Brandy, are so great, that to do so, is neither a matter of much difficulty, nor attended with any great risk of detection.

In making up low Brandies for what is termed the bar, or, as the Retailers themselves express it, '*the glass and bottle trade*,'* the best judges invariably sweeten them; not only in order to conceal the strength, but, by the fulness it imparts to the palate, to prevent a discovery of the etceteras, used in their composition.

It is necessary also, that, I should explain, that whenever sweets, such as *British Brandy Bitters*, *British Cherry Brandy*, *Sugar*, &c. have been mixed with Brandy,

* For the information of those who may be unacquainted with the meaning of these terms I must explain to them, that the '*glass trade*' refers to that class of consumers entitled dram-drinkers, the '*bottle trade*' to those customers who apply for Spirits and Wine in the separate quantities of pint, quart, gallon, or upwards.

its strength cannot be proved by the hydrometer. But, as the Dealer, by a late regulation, has to keep the per centages of the strengths of his Brandy and other Spirits marked on each of the casks, which contains any Spirituous Liquors, and he takes care, that the strengths, shall not appear as below the standard prescribed by Act of Parliament, from the length of time it would otherwise consume, it is only in the event of an information, or when the Exciseman has any very great suspicion, that he makes a trial of such strengths, by the hydrometer; or if, from any suspected Spirit having been unlawfully sweetened, he can obtain no satisfactory result by that instrument, of ascertaining its *real* strength by distillation; the latter being the only process, under the circumstances I have mentioned by which it can be truly discovered. Should the officer be able to find that a Spirit has been sweetened, which has not been admitted by him, to be either a British or a Foreign Compound (independently of a penalty, should he find it of an illegal strength), he can enforce one, which, by a late Act, has become attached to all Traders who are detected of effecting this alteration, with such Spirituous Liquors as do not rank under the head of Compounds. The com-

paratively small quantities, however, of Brandy, &c. which the Retailers manage to have on hand, made up in a sweetened form, or of an illegal strength, when the officers survey their stocks, render any detection extremely rare. By many persons, so great have the advantages of sweetening Brandy, and several other spirituous liquors, been considered to be, that in fact the success of some of our large Gin-shop-keepers, in the sale of their goods, has been entirely ascribed to this plan of adulteration, added to the judicious and knowing manner, in which the penetration of the Excise Officers has been defeated, although the latter, is a circumstance in which Dealers of this class have been, and still are, not a little assisted, by the bad and shameful construction, of some of the Excise laws, which relate to Retailers.

An idea, therefore, of the method usually adopted by the advertisers, for making up Brandy, without the possibility of its strength being proved by the hydrometer, and to answer the end, of, in some degree, concealing such ingredients, as would otherwise be too powerful, is given in the following example of the manner, in which the manufacture, of sixty-three gallons, is to be performed.

Example 3 :—

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|-------------|
| 25 gals. of proof Cog- | | s. d. | £ s. d. |
| nac Brandy . at 28. 6 per gal. | | | 35. 12. 6 |
| 7 gals. of proof Bor- | | | |
| deaux Brandy . | | 25. 6 | 8. 18. 6 |
| 10 gals. of proof Neu- | | | |
| tral-flavored Rum. | | 13. 0 | 6. 10. 0 |
| To fill up, and soften the fla- vor. | 1 gal. of British | | |
| | Brandy Bitters, 22 | | |
| | per cent. under- | | |
| | proof . . . | 9. 6 | 0. 9. 6 |
| | 1 gal. of British | | |
| | Cherry Brandy, 22 | | |
| | per cent. under- | | |
| | proof . . . | 10. 0 | 0. 10. 0 |
| | 5 gals. of British | | |
| | Brandy, 22 per | | |
| cent. underproof . | | 13. 6 | 3. 7. 6 |
| 14 gals. of Water. | | | |
| 63 gals. of Brandy, at 17s. | | | 55. 8. 0 |
| 7d. $\frac{12}{63}$ per gal. (strength, if | | | 20 |
| distilled, about 23 per cent. | | 63) | 1108(17. 7 |
| underproof.) | | gals. | 63 per gal. |
| | | | 478 |
| | | | 441 |
| To this must be added— | | | 37 |
| 8 lbs. of Lump Sugar or Candy- | | | 12 |
| Foote. | | | 63)444(7 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of Colouring. | | | 441 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of Extract of Almond | | | 3 |
| Cake. | | | 4 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of Extract of Grains of | | | 12 |
| Paradise. | | | |

This, is of capital quality, but may be deteriorated as much as 1s. 5d. per gallon, by introducing *proof Rectified Spirits*, at 12s. 6d. per gallon, in lieu of the Bordeaux Brandy. Another very profitable source, is also obtained, even from the very staves of the Brandy puncheons. As soon as the Brandy is racked from the puncheons, four or five gallons of water are immediately put in, and allowed to remain three or four weeks, at the expiration of which time, they have imbibed a considerable portion of Spirit; this material is called *Cowe*, and is chiefly used in the adulteration of *Cape* and other Wines; but, as this will be treated on when I arrive at another part of my subject, I shall now proceed to the article of

RUM.

And here, I may observe, that, with regard to the opportunities for its adulteration, the same facilities exist as in Brandy, the same impositions are practised in point of strength, and the same means possessed and resorted to, of evading the notice of the Exciseman. I should, however, inform my Readers, that, as sweets are but seldom or never used in sufficient quantities with Rum (owing to the peculiar flavor of that

Spirit) to prevent a trial of its strength by the hydrometer, and which consequently renders it more liable to the surveillance of the Excise Officer, the Advertising Cheap Dealers, as some alternative, are therefore in the habit of keeping on hand a less stock of it, of an illegal strength, *though no diminution* takes place in the quantity sold, as the punishment entailed on the offence (and the same with *Brandy, Rum, Hollands, &c.*) barely amounts to a restriction; the utmost penalty extending no further than the forfeiture of whatever Spirits there may be in stock, of an illegal strength, together, with the casks or vessels containing the same.* I may here, also add, that to prevent this, requires but little ingenuity or foresight, as Gin-shop-keepers, and particularly those on a large scale, are generally aware of the time their stock is to be taken, a few hours

* 30 Geo. 3, c. 37, sec. 31. No distiller, rectifier, compounder, or dealer, shall serve, or send out, any foreign Spirits of a lower strength than that of one in six under hydrometer proof, according to Clark's hydrometer,† nor have in his possession any foreign Spirit, mixed together, except Cherry or Raspberry Brandy, of lower strength than as aforesaid, upon pain of such Spirits being forfeited; and such Spirits, with the casks or vessels containing the same, may be seized by any Officer of Excise.

† Seventeen per cent. underproof, according to Sykes's hydrometer.

before the officer pays his visit ;* and they have, therefore, nothing more to do (if they think he suspects them) than to pour into those casks, which contain any Spirits of an illegal strength, such quantity of the same Spirit, at proof, as will cause the strength to ascend to within the standard prescribed by Government.

The impositions practised with Rum, generally consist in purchasing low-priced Leeward Island Rum, and by the introduction of the undermentioned articles,† in certain proportions, vending it as fine old Jamaica Rum of peculiar softness and flavor—

Ale, Porter, Shrub,

Extract of Orris Root,

Cherry-laurel Water,

Extract of Grains of Paradise, or Capsicums.

* The periods now appointed for the surveying of Dealers' stocks, are once in every twenty-eight days ; but occasionally what is termed a check stock is taken, which generally happens about seven days before or after the regular visit has been paid ; consequently, there is but little difficulty (except in cases of strong suspicion) of ascertaining nearly the precise time at which it is to take place ; or, in the event of a surprise, as the Dealer has generally a few minutes to spare (which is all that is requisite), whilst the Exciseman is examining and entering the permits of such goods as have been received into stock, since the last survey, the vigilance of that officer, to whom no blame can be attached, and which, considering the numerous duties he has to perform, is exemplary in the extreme, is altogether baffled.

† ' If the Rum wants a head, which will be the natural

Another way is, by adulterating low-priced Jamaica Rums, by the admixture of Rectified Spirits of Wine and Leeward Island Rum, together with whatever is necessary of the flavoring ingredients which I have named, to improve and render them saleable.

Leeward Island Rums* are but seldom brought to this country at a higher *rate* of strength than eight or ten per cent. overproof.

The prices at which they may generally be bought are from 1s. 3d. and 1s. 9d. to 2s. per gallon; the duty is at 8s. 6d. per gallon, which is charged as well on the overproof; the expenses may be reckoned

consequence of lowering it, take three pounds of clarified Honey, and whisk it up in a can with some of the Rum, after which pour it into the puncheon, and stir it well about: this will both improve the flavor of the liquor and give it a head. Should your Rum require a deeper colour you may regulate it, according to your wishes, with burnt Sugar, putting a little into your cask at a time, stirring it about, and trying the colour in a glass, that you may discover when it is deep enough. The grounds or sediments of Beer or Porter are excellent for improving the flavor of Rum.' Vide *The Vintners' and Licensed Victuallers' Guide*, page 253.

* It should be observed, that Leeward Island Rums, and the generality of low-priced Jamaica Rums, are so coarse and rank, as to render them almost unsaleable, unless, altered in their flavors by artificial means, or blended with others of a better description.

at 3*d.* per gallon. An Example, therefore, of the cost at *proof* of 100 gallons of Leeward Island Rum at ten per cent. overproof, and Examples also of the various prices to which it may be further reduced, are given as follows :

Example 1—

| 100 gals. of Leeward Island Rum | s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| . at 1. 9 per gal. | | 8. 15. 0 |
| Duty on 100 gals. | 8. 6 | 42. 10. 0 |
| *10 gals. of overproof | 8. 6 | 4. 5. 0 |
| Expenses on 100 gals. | 0. 3 | 1. 5. 0 |

* For this 10 gals. of overproof, 10 gals. of water are put into the cask, which thus makes up . . .

| | |
|--|--|
| 110 gals. of <i>proof</i> Rum, to cost | 56. 15. 0 |
| 10s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ <i>d.</i> $\frac{30}{110}$ per gallon . | 20 |
| | 110)1135(10.3 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{30}{110}$ |
| gals. 110 per gal. | |
| | 35 |
| | 12 |
| | 110)420(3 |
| | 330 |
| | 90 |
| | 4 |
| | 110)360($\frac{3}{4}$ |
| | 330 |
| | 30 |

Example 2—

To reduce 55 gallons of the *proof* Rum in the preceding Example, at 10s. $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ $\frac{30}{110}$ per gallon, to cost 9s. 5d. per gallon; strength about 10 per cent. underproof.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| 55 gals. proof Lee- | s. d. | £. s. d. |
| ward Island | | |
| Rum, at . 10. $3\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{30}{110}$ per gal. | 28. 7. 6 | |
| 1 gal. Porter . 2. 0 | — 0. 2. 0 | |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. Shrub . 9. 0 | — 0. 4. 6 | |
| $4\frac{1}{2}$ gals. Water. | | |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Colouring | Quantity | 28. 14. 0 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Extract of | increased | 20 |
| Orris Root . | pays their | 61)574($9.4\frac{3}{4}\frac{4}{6}\frac{1}{1}$ per gal. |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ pint Extract of | expense. gals. 549 | say 9s. 5d. |
| Capsicums . | 25 | per gal. |
| 61 gals. Rum, at 9s. 5d. per gal- | 12 | |
| lon; strength about 10 per | 61)300(4 | |
| cent. underproof. | 244 | |
| | 56 | |
| | 4 | |
| | 61)224($\frac{2}{4}$ | |
| | 183 | |
| | 41 | |

Example 3—

To reduce 55 gallons of the *proof* Rum in Example 1, at 10s. $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ $\frac{30}{110}$ per gallon, to cost 8s. $8\frac{3}{4}d.$ per gallon; strength, 17 per cent. underproof, the lowest at which Government allows of its sale.

| 55 gals. proof Lee- | s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|------------|--------------------------------------|
| ward Island | | |
| Rum, at . 10. $3\frac{3}{4}, \frac{30}{110}$ per gal. | | 28. 7. 6 |
| 1 gal. Porter . 2. 0 | — | 0. 2. 0 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. Ale . 4. 0 | — | 0. 2. 0 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. Shrub . 9. 0 | — | 0. 4. 6 |
| 9 gals. Water. | | |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ pint Colouring | | 28. 16. 0 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ pint Extract of | | 20 |
| Orris Root . | Quantity | |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ pint Cherry- | increased | 66)576(8. $8\frac{160}{66}$ per gal. |
| laurel Water . | pays their | gals. 528 say 8s. $8\frac{3}{4}d.$ |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Extract of | expense. | 48 per gal. |
| Capsicums . | | 18 |
| | | 66)576(8 |
| 66 gals. Rum, at 8s. $8\frac{3}{4}d.$ per gal- | | 528 |
| lon; strength, 17 per | | 48 |
| cent. underproof. | | 4 |
| | | 66)192($\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | | 132 |
| | | 60 |

Or if fifty-five gallons of the proof Rum in Example 1st be further reduced to twenty-five and thirty-two per cent. underproof, (the former strength referred to in page 17, and the latter in note * page 17), by the addition of the proper proportion of water, and a larger proportion of the flavoring ma-

terials and Extract of Capsicums, the prices would be 7s. 11d. and 7s. 2d. per gallon.

The terms on which Rums are advertised for '*Ready money only*,' are 10s. 4d.; 10s. 8d.; 11s. 6d.; 12s.; and 13s. 4d. per gallon (at the two latter prices, the strength of the article to be '*proof*'); and I, therefore, scarcely need pursue any further calculations for the purpose of showing my Readers, the various and enormous profits obtained on Rum, by our cheap Placarders and Advertisers, and the impositions practised on the health and purse of the Public, under the plausible pretext that '*Ready money only*' enables the *modest Dealer* to dispose of these *fine* articles at prices so low. In offering, however, one more Example of a mode of making up a Rum of an '*exceedingly fine flavor*,' I wish to observe, that a restriction exists, only, as regards the admixture of the Rectified Spirits which I have alluded to, in my remarks on Brandy, but that all Rums of whatever quality, may be, as it is termed, blended together. Hence it is, that a Wholesale Spirit Advertiser, is unable to make use of the article of British Rectified Spirits with Rum, because, if he ventures to draw a permit, in order to account for a decrease, and does

not send the goods,* he is liable to a heavy penalty if discovered; or, should he succeed in obtaining a sufficient decrease to answer his purpose, he is as equally liable to have the corresponding increase occasioned in his Rum, not only forfeited, but also accompanied with a similar heavy penalty;† whereas, the Gin-shop-keeper, who can send out whatever he pleases from his retail bar, without having to render any account, may use it with impunity; and, as he does not apply it any further than as the decreases on his Rum will allow, he is above all fear of detection.‡

* 21 Geo. 3, c. 55, sec. 21. Dealers taking out a permit, and not sending away the goods, nor returning the permit within the time of its limitation, forfeit treble the value of the goods; and the goods also, if on taking stock there shall not appear a sufficient decrease to answer such permit.

† 21 Geo. 3, c. 55, sec. 29. Dealers having an increase in their stocks, over and above what the officer found on the last preceding survey, such decrease is to be deemed as brought in without permits or certificates, and an equal quantity is to be forfeited, with the penalty of 50*l*.

‡ To what extent he may occasionally make use of the article of British Rectified Spirits, I refer my Readers to the case I have cited, showing the facility and security with which Brandy may be manufactured, see page 26.

Example 4—

To make up as fine Jamaica Rum, 101 gallons, to cost 11s.

per gallon; the strength, *proof*.

| 30 gals. Jamaica Rum, | s. d. | £. s. d. |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| at 25 per cent. | | |
| overproof | . at 2. 6 | per gal. 3. 15. 0 |
| Duty on 30 gals. . | 8. 6 — | 12. 15. 0 |
| Duty on $7\frac{1}{2}$ gals. of | | |
| overproof (the pro- | | |
| portion on 30 gals. | | |
| at 25 per cent. | | |
| overproof) | 8. 6 — | 3. 3. 9 |
| 30 gallons Leeward | | |
| Island Rum, at 8 | | |
| per cent. overproof. | 1. 9 — | 2. 12. 6 |
| Duty on 30 gals. . | 8. 6 — | 12. 15. 0 |
| Duty on $2\frac{1}{2}$ gals. | | |
| of overproof (the | | |
| proportion on 30 | | |
| gals. at 8 per cent. | | |
| overproof) | 8. 6 — | 1. 1. 3 |
| *20 gals. Rectified Spi- | | |
| rits 56 per cent. | | |
| overproof, includ- | | |
| ing the overproof . | 19. 6 — | 19. 10. 0 |
| 21 gals. Water, being | | 55. 12. 6 |
| the proportion re- | | 20 |
| quisite to reduce the | | |
| whole to proof . | | 101)1112(11 $\frac{72}{101}$ per gal. |
| 1 pint Colouring | | gals. 101 say 11s. per gal. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Ex. Orris | Quantity increased paystheir expense. | 102 |
| Root | | 101 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ pint Cherry. | | 1 |
| laurel Water | | 12 |
| 101 gals. of <i>fine proof</i> Rum, at | | 18 |
| 11s. per gallon. | | 4 |
| | | 72 |

* It has been observed by some of my trade friends, that the following anomaly exists in the above Scale, viz. that, if the Jamaica Rum at the price stated were to be reduced to

This, reduced to the relative strengths of ten, seventeen, twenty-five, and thirty-two per cent. underproof, with the proportionate quantities of Ale or Porter to soften it, and Extract of Grains of Paradise, or Capsicums, to give it the appearance of a greater strength than it possesses, costs 10s.; 9s. 5d.; 8s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; and 8s. 4d. per gallon; and my Readers may, therefore, form some notion of the extent to which the tempting opportunities of adulteration are pursued with this article, and the profits, which such practices enable the unfair Dealer to realize, at the placarded prices, especially when they consider besides, that the incalculable expenses of ad-

proof, without the addition of any other material than water, the cost would only be about 10s. 6d. per gallon, so that in fact, what is used to adulterate it, raises the price to 6d. per gallon more, than the article would cost without undergoing any admixture. It should, however, be borne in mind, that the generality of low-priced Jamaica and Leeward Island Rums, are of so coarse and rank a nature as to be utterly unsaleable, unless altered in their flavors by artificial means. The use of Rectified Spirits in some measure neutralizes the rankness of the cheap Rum, whilst the flavoring ingredients, at the same time that they conceal the bad properties which it possesses, in some measure enable the unfair Dealers to pass it off as of a *fine and superior* quality, remarkably cheap, *for ready money only, &c. &c.*

vertising, &c. are not reckoned in any of the foregoing Examples.

Without enlarging, however, on the frauds practised with *Hollands*, by the admixture of a proportion of two-thirds of Rectified Spirits to one of *Hollands*,* and as well also with *Compounds*, such as *Peppermint*, *Cloves*, &c. we now arrive at the acme of all adulteration in the article of Spirits, viz.

* Rectified Spirits costs about 12s. 6d. per gallon, if reduced to proof. *Hollands* pays the same duty as Brandy, and is usually to be purchased (if by the puncheon) at about 25s. 6d. per gallon, full proof strength, thus—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|-------|-----|--------------|
| 20 gals. of Recti- | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
| fied Spirits, at | | | | | |
| proof | at 12. | 6 per gal. | 12. | 10. | 0 |
| 10 gals. of Hol- | | | | | |
| lands, at proof | 25. | 6 | — | 12. | 15. 0 |
| makes up 30 gallons of proof Hol- | | | | 25. | 5. 0 |
| lands, to cost only | | | | 20 | s. d. |
| 16s. 10d. per gallon, | | | 30) | 505 | (16. 10. per |
| being 5s. 8d. per gal- | | | gals. | 30 | gal. |
| lon less than the duty | | | | 205 | |
| on genuine <i>Hollands</i> ; | | | | 180 | |
| and which, if further | | | | 25 | |
| reduced only to 10 | | | | 12 | |
| per cent. underproof, | | | 30) | 300 | (10 |
| costs but 15s. 2d. per | | | | 300 | |
| gallon. | | | | 0 | |

BRITISH GIN.

It will no doubt appear an extraordinary circumstance, to such of my Readers as are unacquainted with the nature of the concerns, at which so large a proportion of this Compound is consumed, when *I state the fact* (well known to all persons connected with the trade) *that sums, of from one thousand to three thousand pounds, and, where Wine trades have been attached, as much as from three to six thousand pounds have been given, for the good-wills of Gin-shops, possessed of only twenty-one years' leases, depending solely on the will of the magistrate for their Licences being renewed, and held at rents of from 75l. to 200l. per annum.* But I have little doubt, that, all surprise will cease, when, in addition to the profitable adulterations which, as I have shown, are practised with Brandy and Rum, I have exposed those also, which are carried on with this article, and that of *Wine*.

In order, however, to convey a sufficiently clear notion of the impositions to which this Spirit is peculiarly exposed, I must premise a few observations on its nature, and on the regulations it is subjected to, from the earliest period of its manufacture.

The Malt Distiller (who is of a different class to the Rectifier, and whose business, it must be borne in mind, is altogether distinct and separate) is the person, who first commences the manufacture of Gin. It is most commonly made from malt, and consists in placing a wash, prepared from the grain, in a state of vinous fermentation, to decompose the saccharine matter, and after it has gone through this process, in distilling it into what is usually denominated *Malt Spirit*, or *Whiskey*.

The enormous duties, however, with which the trade of Malt Distillers is chargeable, they being compelled to distil above a certain quantity of Spirit of immense bulk at a time, and the large capital which is required, rendering it possible only for a few individuals of great wealth to engage in this business, the natural consequence has been, to produce a monopoly*

* This monopoly of the Malt Distillers attracted the attention of Government, and, as some restriction, they have permitted the distillation of Gin, from *Rum*, or *Scotch* or *Irish Whiskey*; but as the Malt Distillers have reduced their prices to the same level, and their article is generally preferred, the terms at which it is sold, though lower, continue as invariable as previously to the restriction. Another circumstance, which also confines it as a monopoly, is this :

and community of interests amongst them; to preserve which, from the invasion of competitors, they have introduced the practice of fixing a stated price for their goods, (from which none of them depart,) and of periodically, or according to circumstances, raising and lowering those prices, to the whole of the trade of Rectifiers indiscriminately.

This Spirit is sold by the Malt Distiller, at a certain definite overproof strength, to the Rectifier, who, by a second distillation, deprives it of its essential oil; and then again, by a third process through his still, (with the addition of *Juniper Berries* and other ingredients,) he converts it into the article called *British Gin*.

In consequence of this system, the Rectifiers, (into whose hands the Spirit next

no sooner does any Rectifier attempt to undersell the stated price which has been given out, than he is immediately refused any further supply of Spirit from the Malt Distiller; and should he evade the obstacle thus thrown in his way, by manufacturing his Gin from Scotch or Irish Whiskey, or Rum, the whole of the trade immediately lower their prices to a standard considerably below that at which he is selling, (however great the sacrifice may be at which they do it,) until he is compelled, from the prospect of either losing the whole of his connexion, or suffering himself to be totally ruined, to give up the contest, and return to the old price.

passes, and who make it into Gin,) are obliged to adopt the same course; and, therefore, set that price to their Gin-shop customers, and others of the trade, which will yield them a fair profit, and at which no competitors can undersell them, except at a partial loss.

There are two strengths only, at which the Rectifier sends this article of *unsweetened* Gin from his stock; these are seventeen, and twenty-two per cent. underproof; and, as any variation from them would only occasion a proportionate alteration in price, none is ever made. The cause, which produced the seeming inconsistency, of having these two strengths in particular, was as follows:—The first Act of Parliament relating to this subject, provided, that British Brandy, Gin, and all liquors under the head of Compounds, should not exceed in strength twenty-two per cent. underproof, and a penalty was inflicted on persons selling it at any higher rate of strength. Subsequently however, another Act was passed, which altered the limitation to seventeen per cent. underproof; thus, making the article of unsweetened Gin, saleable, at a degree five per cent. stronger. But, the traders generally having become accus-

tomed to buy their Gin at twenty-two per cent. underproof, and the penalty attaching to the Rectifier, only on the Spirit being sold at a higher per centage than laid down in the last Act, both strengths are retained, in order to suit the choice of the purchaser, though by far the greater proportion, is still disposed of, at twenty-two per cent. underproof.

With Gin, after it is sweetened, no restriction, as to any particular strength, continues to prevail, as it then constitutes, what is termed Cordial, or sweetened Gin, it cannot be tried by the hydrometer; and is sold by the Rectifier, Wholesale Dealer, or Gin-shop-keeper, at any reduced rate of strength, under the two just mentioned.

But, as to purchase it in this state is, the most unprofitable, as well to the Wholesale, as to the Retail Dealer; it is, with scarcely any exception, bought by them at either of the strengths, seventeen or twenty-two per cent. underproof, and they afterwards sweeten or make it up themselves.

The present fixed and stated cash price, after all deductions, to every description of trade consumers, indiscriminately, is, for the former strength 10s. per gallon, and for the latter strength 9s. 4d. per gallon; and my Readers must, therefore, when they see Gin

advertised at 5s. 9d.; 6s. 6d.; 7s. 6d.; and 9s. 4d. per gallon, be naturally somewhat curious, to learn the extent of reduction, and the means by which that reduction is effected, so as to render it either saleable or drinkable (saying nothing of its wholesomeness) *at such prices*, and at the same time enable the advertiser to derive a clear average cash profit of from 1s. 6d. to 2s.* per gallon.

To clear up this mystery is my task, and the first point, to which I shall direct attention is the flavor, that most essential particular in the art of making up Gin; after which I will present a Scale, showing the different proportions of *aqua puræ* (pure water) necessary to reduce 100 gallons of Gin to *the prices at which it is advertised and placarded*, and the *further* reduction requisite to clear the profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon.

The list of ingredients used in flavoring or making up Gin as advertised, is somewhat startling; not less for its length than for the articles of which it is composed. They are as follows :

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Oil of Vitriol, | Oil of Cassia, |
| Oil of Turpentine, | Oil of Carraways, |

* This, I can vouch for as a fact, having myself distilled a portion of what is termed Gin at the prices quoted.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Oil of Juniper, | Oil of Almonds, |
| Sulphuric Æther, | Extract of Capsicums, or |
| Extract of Orris Root, | Extract of Grains of Paradise, |
| Extract of Angelica Root, | Water, Sugar, &c. |

With respect to the first mentioned of these articles, viz. *Oil of Vitriol*, it is perhaps the most important of the whole list, as, from the pungency it imparts to the Spirit, it mainly assists in keeping up the appearance of strength, when applied to the nose, as the *Extracts of Capsicums* or of *Grains of Paradise* do, when applied to the taste. Hence it is, that, in smelling a bottle containing Gin, in the flavoring of which *Oil of Vitriol* has been employed, the pungency is so great, immediately after the bung has been taken out, as almost to make the eyes water, which is never the case, even with Gin at its highest strength, previously to its being sweetened.

The quantities in which it is applied are various, according to the judgment of those, who have occasion to require its aid, though I have every reason to believe it is used in the greatest proportion to those Gins, which are reduced to the lowest strengths and prices, and by those persons, who are considered the most knowing.

Before, however, it is mixed with the

other flavoring ingredients, it is altered in its form, by a process, in which either *Sour Cyder* or *Lime Water* is employed; and under which alteration it is, I believe, added in the proportions of from one to four pints, to 100 gallons of Gin.

As regards *Oil of Turpentine* and *Sulphuric Æther*, (*the Turpentine having been changed from its oily state, by means of Lime Water, the Whites of Eggs, or Spirits of Wine*), they are included in the measure of about one eighth of a pint of the former, and half a pint of the latter, (with the other materials used for the flavor,) for 100 gallons, and chiefly, for the purpose of mingling and concealing the *Oil of Vitriol*, in the made up Gin, and giving it what is termed ‘a delicate flavor!’

The *Extracts of Orris* and *Angelica Roots* are used, for imparting a fulness of body and flavor to that vast proportion of the Compound, which is merely *water*; and, by their relative bitters, keeping the taste, as nearly as possible, to that of the Gin previously to any reduction. They are applied with the other ingredients in quantities of about a quart of each, to the 100 gallons of manufactured Gin.

The remaining *Oils*, named in the list, re-

quire the nicest discrimination in their application; and that their forms be altered by the same means, as are employed with *Oil of Turpentine*. They are all exceedingly powerful, and the proportions made use of, with the rest of the materials, (previously to their having undergone any change,) seldom exceed a quarter of an ounce of the *Oils of Cassia, Carraways, and Almonds*; and of the *Oil of Juniper*, one ounce.

With the nature and properties of the *Extracts of Capsicums, and Grains of Paradise*, my Readers are already acquainted. They are added, with the other ingredients, to the 100 gallons of made up Gin, (if reduced to the lowest price,) in quantities of about a quart of either.

Another article, 'also, known under the denomination of *Heading*, must not be omitted. It is intended to impart to Gin, an appearance of strength, when seen in a glass, of which, from its great reduction, it would otherwise seem to be deficient. When poured into a glass to be drank, this ingredient causes a light bead to appear and remain for some time on the surface of the noxious Compound; this gives the latter the semblance of being highly spirituous; and heated as cheap Gin generally

is, with Capsicums and Grains of Paradise, it is well calculated to assist in deceiving those, who choose to make themselves the willing prey of the Advertisers and Placarders of cheap Wines and Spirits. The same use is made of the article, in Brandy and Rum. The manner in which the manufacture of *Heading* is performed, is as follows, although it is to be purchased, together with the principal of the various ingredients I have mentioned, under their respective titles, at what are termed, '*Brewers' and Distillers' Druggists*'—concerns well known to every advertiser. 'Take of *Oil of Vitriol*, about one dessert spoon full, one ditto of common *Oil of Almonds*, mix them well with a portion of Spirits of Wine, and add the whole to 100 gallons of made up Gin.'

That the proportions of the different ingredients I have named, are varied according to the judgment and taste of the Advertising Wholesale Dealer or Gin-shop-keeper, as well, as that, sometimes several articles are struck out altogether, or their places supplied by others equally deleterious, there can be little doubt;* but, that

* The following are two other lists of ingredients, with directions for their use, furnished in the books, (the pur-

the materials are as numerous, and used in as considerable quantities, is proved beyond all question, by this simple calculation: it requires *forty-eight gallons of water* to reduce 100 gallons of Gin, purchased at its cheapest rate, to one of the prices at which it is advertised, (that at 6s. 6d. per gallon,)

poses of which have been before alluded to) entitled, *The Vintners' and Licensed Victuallers' Guide, by a Practical Man*, second edition, 1826. and *Palmer's Publicans' Director*, second edition, 1826.

'Take 100 gallons of unsweetened Gin, *three pounds of Coriander Seeds, four ounces of Bitter Almond Cake, three ounces of Orange Peel, two ounces of Angelica Seeds, Cassia, one ounce, Orris Root and Capsicums, of each half an ounce*; steep the seeds, &c. (first bruised) in a portion of Gin for six days; strain and press them out, and add to the rest; then add eighteen pounds of Lump Sugar. Fine with one pound of Alum, and four ounces of Sal Tartar dissolved in water.

'To make up thirty gallons of raw Spirit into *Cordial Gin*. Get as follows, *two pennyweights of Oil of Turpentine, three pennyweights of Oil of Juniper Berries, two pennyweights of Oil of Vitriol, two pennyweights of Oil of Almonds, one pint of Elder-flower Water*. Kill the Oils with a pint of Spirits of Wine, and add about eight pounds of Loaf Sugar, twenty-five gallons of Spirits, one in five, which will bear five gallons of Water; rouse it well, and in order to fine it, take two ounces of Alum, and one of Salt of Tartar, boil it till it be quite white, then throw it into your cask, continually stirring it for ten minutes, bung it up, and when fine, it will be fit for use.'

and the still further addition of *forty-four gallons more of water* (making a total of *ninety-two gallons*), to allow of the profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon.

This alone must be conclusive to every mind, and prove that practices, such as I have pointed out, do exist; and when it is considered that the evils consequent upon them, fall most heavily on the poorer classes of society, no one will deny that this system calls loudly for the interference of the Government. The idle reply, that the weaker such a Compound as Gin is made, the less injury it is likely to work, is no answer to such a case; because, although strong Spirits may be mischievous to the health and morals of the lower classes, the drinking such compositions as I have described must also be pernicious in the highest degree to the constitution and comfort of the people; and tends only to enrich a class of the community, who have neither honesty nor usefulness enough, to entitle them to the wealth which they obtain.

In presenting my Readers with a Scale, showing the different proportions of *water* necessary to reduce 100 gallons of Gin, twenty-two per cent. underproof, at 9s. 4d. per gallon, to the relative prices at which it

is advertised, viz. 9s. 4d.; 8s.; 7s. 6d.; 6s. 6d.; and 5s. 9d. per gallon, I should premise that, although I have set the limit at that quantity, for the sake of conciseness, the best judges, or those whose consumption is the most considerable, make it up in vats; and that the larger the dimensions of the vat, the greater extent of reduction the Gin will bear, and the better is the fictitious flavor concealed. The quantity of lump sugar used to 100 gallons of Gin, varies from twenty-five to thirty-five pounds, according to the taste of the maker up; but, for the sake of accuracy, I have reckoned thirty pounds in the following Scale, as being the proper proportion, and I have considered the ingredients to pay their own expense, in the quantity increased by their use.

A SCALE,

Showing the quantity of Water necessary to reduce 100 gallons of Gin, at 22 per cent. underproof, to the various prices at which it is Advertised and Placarded, and the still further reduction requisite to allow the profits as stated.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| 100 gallons of Gin, at 9s. 4d. | 46 | 13 | 4 |
| 30 pounds of Lump Sugar, at 11d. | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| Flavoring, &c. pays itself in the quantity increased | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 48 | 0 | 10 |

If reduced, to cost—

| Prices as ad- ver- tised. | Profit derived extra. | | Quantity of Water required to 100 gals. of Gin to re- duce it to the price adver- tised. | | Further quantity of Water required to the 100 gals. of Gin to al- low of the profit. | | Total quantity of Water requisite to reduce the 100 gals. of Gin to the profit per gal. below the price adver- tised. | | Per cen- tum of strength under- proof. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---|------|--|------|---|------|--|
| | | | gals. | qts. | gals. | qts. | gals. | qts. | |
| per gal. | per gal. | | gals. | qts. | gals. | qts. | gals. | qts. | per cent. |
| s. d. | s. d. | | | | | | | | |
| 9 4 | 2 0 | Takes | 3 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 40½ |
| 8 0 | 1 6 | | 20 | 0 | 27 | 3 | 47 | 3 | 47 |
| 7 6 | 1 6 | | 28 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 51 |
| 7 0 | 1 6 | | 37 | 1 | 37 | 2 | 74 | 3 | 55 |
| 6 6 | 1 6 | * | 47 | 3 | 44 | 1 | 92 | 0 | 59 |
| 5 9 | 1 0 | | 67 | 0 | 35 | 2 | 102 | 2 | 61½ |

In this Scale, it will be seen, that, even

* On distilling a gallon of each of the Gins advertised, at these prices, through a small experimental still, I found, on calculation, the relative profits considerably more, than stated on some of the prices in this Scale: for the sake, however, of having no mis-statement, I have supposed the whole, only as laid down; and, that, I am correct in my assertion the fact will sufficiently prove, that some Officers of Excise have, on one or two occasions, made seizures of Gin at as low a strength as ninety-two per cent. underproof, concluding it to be illegal; but, which was afterwards returned, as there is no law to limit the extent to which this Compound may be reduced.

to reduce the hundred gallons of Gin, so as to be saleable at one of the higher prices at which it is advertised, (viz. at 8s. per gallon), it takes *twenty gallons* of water; and, to allow the profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon, the further addition of *twenty-seven gallons and three quarts* more, of the same liquid, causing, a total of *forty-seven gallons and three quarts of water*; and making up (within one quart) one hundred, and forty-eight gallons of Gin, to sell at 8s. per gallon, attended with a cash profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon.

The extensive adulteration requisite to render such a Compound capable of being drank, as Gin, must be so obvious, that I consider it superfluous to add more on this part of the subject.

By an Act of Parliament, all individuals whose incomes, convenience, or any other circumstance, enables them only to purchase their Spirits in quantities of less than two gallons, are obliged to resort to the places at which so much adulteration is practised; for, should they apply to a Wholesale Dealer, and manage to obtain the quantity they require of that which is good and wholesome, if it be under two gallons, he is open to an information from the purchaser for a considerable period; and,

on conviction, to a heavy penalty. The single fact that the quantity of genuine Spirits which passes into the hands of Gin-shop-keepers,* previously to any adulteration or reduction, amounts to a proportion of more than two thirds of the whole of what is sold in the united kingdom, ought to point out the necessity of some restriction, which can only be rendered effectual by placing the trade of the Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchant on a more equal footing with that of the Retail Dealer *possessed of a Wholesale Licence*. And, if I may be allowed to hazard an opinion respecting the latter, I would observe, that, let the limitation with regard to the smallest quantity of Spirit, which a Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchant should be permitted to sell, be fixed at one quart or a gallon† (instead of two gallons, the present extent), let *the strictest inquisition be instituted, to prevent any greater opportunity for adulteration or imposition*, than he possesses at present, and cause him to pay for this additional privi-

* This is supposed to include as well all under the head of Public-house and Tavern-keepers.

† It may be as well as to remark here, that, with regard to Wine, the Wholesale Wine Merchant's Licence enables him to sell it in quantities as small as a single bottle.

lege in the same ratio as the Gin-shop-keeper does for the advantage of a Wholesale Licence, and a considerable check, both to the system, and its consequences would at once be raised; for, as the respectable Wine Merchant, who depends more on the quality of his article, than on any high sounding pretensions, would then have as customers for Spirits, such of his connection as, through necessity (from their being consumers of quantities under two gallons), are now obliged to resort to the Gin-shops, and the chance of the quality of his goods bringing to him many others, who have found out the nature of the trash they have been used to purchase, it would at once, create a competition of quality, instead of price; which would soon reduce the cheap placarders and advertisers of Spirits, to as few in number, as there are now of cheap Wine venders who are not Gin-shop-keepers.

The Public would be enabled to purchase a bottle, half-dozen, or dozen, as their convenience suited, of those persons whose livelihood (*as they do not pretend to sell at less than cost price*) depends on their disposing solely of that which is of good quality; nor would the Dealers, thus placed on a fair level with

Gin-shop-keepers, have that class for customers, who are dram-drinkers (and who pay but little attention, to what they pour down their throats, so long, as their palates are satisfied) to render such Dealers at all indifferent as to whether the description of what they vend be good or bad. The proposed alteration, would not afford them any increased facilities for adulteration, which might not be prevented, by regulations, that could be provided for the purpose; and how any measure of the kind, to accomplish so desirable an end, could be considered an act of injustice to the Retailer, appears to me difficult to conceive; whilst he is allowed—independently of his other business, and in the possession of a Wholesale Licence, (for which he pays but 10*l.* per annum)—to enjoy advantages, infinitely superior to those of the Wholesale Dealer, inasmuch, as from the means afforded him, by his Retail department, for adulterating *the whole* of his Wines and Spirits, to any extent he pleases, he is enabled, completely to undersell the fair and respectable trader. I leave this suggestion to the judgments of my Readers, and shall be more than satisfied, if the representation I have made, engage the attention of that Government

whose duty it is, and whose inclination it is professedly, to place every branch of trade on the broadest and most equitable basis, and whose interest, not less than its duty and its inclination, is involved in the present case; because, if some such alteration were once adopted, a much greater proportion of the genuine Spirit, which pays the regular duty, would necessarily be sold; and some of that money, which at present goes exclusively into the pockets of the Advertising Gin-shop-keeper, would then find its way into the coffers of the State.

Another method, however, whereby the Public might perhaps be still better preserved, from the consequences of these deceptive practices, than is offered by that which I have already proposed, deserves particular mention; as it is one which has received the sanction of the Legislature, and would in all probability, have been carried into effect before this time, but for the machinations and co-operation of a powerful body of men, to the detriment of the Wholesale Dealers; but than whom (speaking of the latter), as a class, who ought to unite in every effort for the maintenance of their rights against the encroachments of the Gin-shop-keepers possessed of Wholesale

Licences, none evince greater supineness or want of energy ; and who, instead of publicly exposing, as they ought to do, the base frauds which are practised (and which, owing to the facilities afforded to the Retailers, are even sanctioned by the Legislature under the present system), are suffering their very means of subsistence, to be gradually and imperceptibly undermined and destroyed. A remarkable instance of this indifference to their interests, on the part of the Wholesale Dealers, was shown on the passing of the Distillery Act lately framed, and now in force. It was contemplated to introduce into that Act a clause, by which all persons possessed of Retail Licences should not be allowed to vend goods, under a Wholesale Licence, on the same premises on which he retailed them ; but, that every Retailer who was desirous of retaining both Licences, should be placed on a par with other Wholesale Dealers, by being compelled to conduct the Wholesale department of his business, separately, and at a certain distance from the place at which his Retail trade was carried on ; thus, not a little evidencing the suspicions entertained by Government on the very subject I have been discussing. The Gin-

shop-keepers, however, alive to this annihilation of their means of deceiving the public any longer, by a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and by representations (the importance of which, to their own individual interests, must be pretty clear to my Readers), procured the obliteration of this obnoxious clause, unanswered by the proper and correct counter-statements, which ought, and could have been made, on the part of the respectable Wine and Spirit Merchant, and which, there can be little doubt, would have had the effect of causing the completion of the Act, in its original form.

The following explanation, however, which places the case on its own merits, and as it really stands, will enable my Readers to draw their own conclusions on the points I have submitted to them, with respect to this portion of my subject, and may not, perhaps, altogether, be considered uninteresting.

The present mode by which a Wholesale Spirit Dealer's stock is taken, is such, as not only to render it impossible for him to adulterate his goods, or by any means to defraud his customers, but even to place needless difficulties in the way of his busi-

ness, though nothing more be desired by him, than to conduct it on a fair and equitable basis, whether with regard to the Revenue or the Public; whilst the person who is possessed of a Wholesale Licence, united with his Retail one, is *enabled to impose on both* with impunity; *his* Wholesale stock being taken as connected with his Retail trade, and on a principle totally different, to that arranged for those who belong to the other class.

To enable my Readers thoroughly to comprehend this difference, it may be necessary to explain it in a technical way, as more clearly elucidating the extensive latitude afforded, where the Wholesale and Retail businesses are conducted on one, and the same premises.

Of a Wholesale Dealer's stock (who is exclusively such), an account is taken in what is technically termed *Proof Spirit*, which is thus:—The separate per centages of Spirit contained in his Brandy, Rum, Gin, &c. are ascertained by means of the hydrometer, and are equalized so as to appear *a whole quantity*, under each particular head, according to its sort; whatever is brought into stock of Spirits, the permit must either specify the per centage

of strength of the article, and the quantity, or only the total quantum of proof Spirits, which is contained in the bulk of the goods protected by it; and in sending out Spirits, the Dealer is obliged also to express, on his request note, what per centage of strength the liquor is of, before he can obtain the permit. On the Exciseman's attending to take the stock, he receives all the permits by which the Dealer has had in Spirits, since the last survey, and notes down the total quantity of proof Spirits they denote, under the proper distinctions, to which is added the amount of proof Spirits, of each kind, which formed the balance of the last stock. The quantity of Spirits, whether Brandy, Rum, &c. contained in the various casks, and their different strengths, is then ascertained; and, together with the amount of what has been sent out (of which the officer has a previous account from the vouchers, or request notes, left at the Permit Office by the Dealer for all the permits he has had occasion to draw, since the last time of taking stock, and which must be so left, before he can obtain any of such permits), reduced, so as to exhibit the total quantum of *proof Spirits*, of each description. Should this, on being deducted from

the total formed by the last balance, and what has been had into stock since, added together, show any excess, (6 Geo. 4. c. 80, sec. 109,) ‘Such excess shall be deemed and taken to be Spirits illegally received, and a quantity of Spirits of the like kind shall, and may be seized out of any part of the stock of such Wholesale Dealer,* by any Officer or Officers of Excise; and the Wholesale Dealer in whose stock, custody, or possession, such excess shall be found, shall forfeit and lose the sum of 20s. per gallon, for every gallon of such excess: *and if there be any decrease in such stock, not duly accounted for by the Spirits sent out with permit, and exceeding five per centum on the balance or stock left on hand at the last preceding account, together with the quantity since lawfully received, the Wholesale Dealer in whose stock such decrease is found, shall forfeit and lose the sum of twenty shillings per gallon, for every gallon of such deficiency.*’

Thus we see, that a Wholesale Dealer’s chance of defrauding the Public, with respect to deteriorated Spirits, is a very slender one indeed; because, should he either wilfully, or in error, state the

* This Act also includes Rectifiers and Compounders.

strengths on his permits, for the goods he may send out, at a higher rate than is correct, an increase to the same amount, as occasioned by such errors, is sure to be found in his stock, by the officer on the next survey; or, if at a less rate, or any accident occur, by which a portion of Spirit is lost, a decrease would appear in the same manner, for which, we perceive, on reference to the Act, the Dealer is as liable to punishment as though he had obtained an increase by receiving into his stock a quantity of smuggled goods.

A Retailer's stock (although a Wholesale business may be supplied from it, and conducted on one, and the same premises), receives no difference in the mode of its survey from that of a person who is entirely or exclusively a Retail Dealer. The technical term by which this method of taking stock is distinguished from that adopted for the Wholesale Dealer, is its being surveyed according to the bulk of gallons, without reference to the relative strengths of the Spirits, so long as they are not below the legal standard, nor is any further account taken of the strengths of the Spirits, in a Retail and Wholesale Licenced Dealer's stock, under this regulation, than may be

said to amount to a nominal preventive, to his having any very large quantity on hand, of an illegal strength, when the officer pays his visit.

The Spirits a Retailer may receive into stock, are taken according to the bulk or number of gallons contained in the cask, or casks, permitted to him, and whatever the strength may be, whether underproof or overproof, he is allowed credit to reduce or keep them at any standard he pleases, not exceeding seventeen per centum underproof, if they be foreign Spirits, such as Brandy, Rum, &c. but if British, such as Gin; or Compounds, such as Noyeau, Shrub, &c. to any reduced rate of strength, which may be necessary to meet his views.

For any kind of Spirits he may have occasion to permit out, he is obliged to state on the request note, for the permit, (and which is again transcribed on the latter by the Excise permit-writer) the strength of such Spirits, but for no other purpose, than to render the goods seizable, if they should be stopped by any officer, and the strength stated by the Dealer, and that which the liquor really possesses, be found not to agree.

The Retailer, on having his stock sur-

veyed, is only liable, if, upon ascertaining the number of gallons in stock, and what has been sent out by permit, there should appear any increase beyond his last balance, and what has been had in since, added together; or to have seized on account of being deficient in strength, such Spirits only, as are found to be so, when the officer entertains a suspicion, and chooses to make an examination;* and with respect to having any increase discovered, as the Retail and Wholesale trades, are both supplied from one and the same source, and a constant sale is taking place over the Retail bar, there is but little danger of the officer, meeting with such a result at the time of his visit, (nor indeed at any other), as the Dealer invariably manages to retain a small decrease from his last stock, (for the sake of appearances), on every article which he may have deteriorated: and to render himself always safe, he never makes an addition to any of his goods, in the way of adulteration, until he is afforded

* How easily this is to be avoided, although the offence be committed to a considerable extent, may be gathered from the commencement of my remarks on Rum, and from note * (page 35.)

sufficient room, in such goods, (by what has been retailed of them), to admit of that addition, without exceeding his credit.

But, as nothing can better illustrate, or more truly explain the small chance of detection, which exists under the present system, and the manner in which a Retailer, possessed of a Wholesale Licence, is enabled to carry on his impositions, to so great an extent, and with so much impunity, than the case I have cited, in the adulterations of Brandy, (page 26,) to that I refer my Readers, with the certainty that it will open their eyes, to the means by which our Gin-shop-keepers are able to placard cheap Spirits, at such extremely low prices, and, also, that it will bear convincing testimony, to several of the most important facts, I have hitherto advanced.

In thus, however, apparently advocating the cause of those fair Dealers, who are injured in their sale of Spirits, by the cheap prices, and specious pretences, of the Advertising and Placarding Gin-shop-keeper, and in publicly exposing the means, by which alone the different impositions are effected, situated as I am, it is a matter of little importance to me, personally, whether or not my motives may be appreciated, by

the individuals whose mal-practices I have attacked. The value of my observations, must depend on the facts which I have advanced, and on the force of the arguments, which I have adduced. That abuses do exist, that these abuses originate, in the undue and mischievous facility afforded to Gin-shop-keepers, and other Retail Dealers, I think I have proved, and I apprehend it is no less satisfactorily made out, that some alteration should be made in the system, for the sake of the fair Trader, for the benefit of the revenue, and for the protection of the public health. I feel it, however, due to many respectable and worthy Gin-shop-keepers, who are neither cheap sellers nor advertisers, who vend at a moderate price, and who, by fairly earned and equitable profits, maintain themselves, and their families, to state, that although the facts, with regard to the facilities for adulterating, apply to the whole of their class, as a body, without a single reservation, yet that the circumstance of those facilities, being rendered subservient to base purposes, will rest more strongly on the individuals, who are ready to bear down all those of the same trade, (whether belonging to their own community, or not), who live by fair dealing, or who hap-

pen, unfortunately, to be less knowing than themselves. Nor can I, therefore, conclude this division of my subject, without bearing testimony from my personal experience, and knowledge, to the exceptions, which the methods adopted, in the conduct of business, by the more honourable individuals, to whom I have alluded, form, to the profligate, and dishonest contrivances, of their placarding rivals.

I cannot also but expect, that this Treatise, will excite the rancour of the advertisers, and be construed to be, as indeed it in some measure is, an attack upon them. This consideration is one which is far from discouraging, because it is by the outcry they may make, that the Public will be enabled to estimate their pretensions; they who have most reason to fear exposure, will naturally cry out the loudest, or, as in the old adage—

‘The worst spoke in the wheel will crack first.’

Leaving, however, the facts to speak for themselves, and my Readers to draw their own conclusions, I shall now proceed to the second, though not less important, part of this Treatise.

II.

WINE.

‘ One glasse of drink, I got by chance,
‘ ’Twas Claret when it was in France,
‘ But now from it moche wider :
‘ I think a man might make as good
‘ With green crabbes, boyl’d in Brazil wood,
‘ And half a pinte of Cyder.’

An Old Song.

USED in moderation, and as dispensing by its cheering influence, an additional zest to several of our social enjoyments, Wine may be said to form one of the blessings of life. That it constitutes a luxury, to which more consideration is attached than to almost any other whatever, is too obvious to require any lengthened discussion of its merits to prove it so; nor is it, I think, by any means less clear, that, in the existing state of society, it is an article which has almost become a necessary of life. The object, however, of this Treatise, is not to point out the benefits which the rational use of Wine confers on mankind, but by guarding

the Public against the pernicious adulterations which are practised upon it, to prevent that, which may and ought to be a blessing, from being converted into a curse. Widely diffused, and in such general demand, as Wine is, no one can doubt but that its abuses deserve to be exposed, and a stop put to its being rendered baneful, from other causes than its misapplication. Nor, is an individual who happens to be thoroughly acquainted with the subject, fulfilling more than his duty to the community, when he holds up to public reprobation, that class of persons, who, not content with the gains which fair dealing in Wine, in its genuine state, would yield them, seek to reap large and disproportionate profits, by the most base and fraudulent means ;—means which not only enable them completely to undermine the character and livelihood of the honest Tradesman, in respect to his exacting unnecessarily high prices, but also to cheat the pockets (and that to no small extent), of those, who are so easily gulled, as to put faith in their pretences.

To discharge this duty in addition to that already performed with respect to Spirits, is my declared intention, and I have every expectation that I can place before my Readers facts and arguments, on the adulterations

of Wine, sufficient to convince all those, who are too nice to drink a compound of *Red Cape*, *Benecarlo*, *Figuera*, and *Inferior Port Wines*, mixed together, under the name of ‘*genuine Old Port*,’ or a mixture of *Cape*, *Brandy Cowe*, and *Coarse Brown Sherry*, with the colour extracted by means of *Lamb’s Blood*, for ‘*Fine Pale Amontillado Sherry*.’

To persons, indifferent as to what they place on their tables for Wine, so long as the taste somewhat resembles the denomination it bears, fact and reasoning would alike be uselessly addressed.

In the first place, as regards the facilities for the adulteration of Wine, they are, with little difference, possessed as equally by the Wholesale Dealers, as by the Gin-shop cheap Wine venders, unless where the Retail consumption of the latter, or what they sell in glasses, is so large, as to give them, in this respect, a great advantage. The Wholesale Wine Merchant’s Licence, enables him to dispose of Wine in quantities, as small as a single bottle, and does not enforce his drawing a permit, but for quantities amounting to more than one dozen, the additional opportunity, therefore, which the Gin-shop-keepers have, and which must account for their forming the

majority amongst our placarders and advertisers of cheap Wine, arises from what they retail by the glass, or in measures less than a bottle, but which consequently, can only be of any very great benefit, where much is sold in that way. In other respects, they are subject to precisely the same regulations, as to drawing permits, &c. as Wholesale Dealers.

It may, however, be proper to remark here, that although upon the whole, both classes are open to facilities, almost as available to the one as to the other, yet, comparatively, but little chance of adulterating their goods, exists, with those who carry on a fair business, even if inclined to do so, because the Advertising and Placarding Gin-shop-keepers, and Wholesale Dealers, by their wonderfully cheap prices and pompous assertions, are sure to attract that description of persons as purchasers, who form the principal means of enabling them to adulterate with the least possible risk of detection; that is to say, such as buy only small quantities at a time, and with whom quality is quite a secondary consideration so long as the price is low.

With respect to the measures adopted to evade discovery from the Excise Officers,

the evidence in the trial,* alluded to, at the commencement of this Treatise, will best

* *From the Times Journal of December 1, 1826.*

In the Court of Exchequer, November 30, 1826.—The Attorney-General versus Oldfield.

The information consisted of four counts, the first for procuring a permit, under pretence of transferring a certain quantity of Wine to a Mr. Buckby—it would appear by the evidence, that Mr. Buckby was not the purchaser of any such quantity of Wine, and that the permit had not been returned to the Excise Office.

The second count was of a similar nature: in this, the supposed purchaser was Mrs. Oldfield, the mother of the defendant.

The third count arose out of the preceding ones: it complained of these permits not being returned to the Excise Office.

The fourth count alleged the adulteration of certain Wines, the mixing of Cape with Sherry, and selling the mixture as pure Sherry.

The first witnesses which the Attorney-General called, were several persons, connected with the Excise, who proved that two permits, in the names of Buckby and Mrs. Oldfield, were obtained, and never returned to the Excise Office.

Mr. Buckby, examined by the Attorney-General.—He (Mr. B.) knew the defendant Oldfield; had frequently bought small quantities of Wine of him, but never, at any one time, so large a quantity as to require a permit. He never bought, altogether, so much Wine of him as 283 gallons. He never saw the permit for 283 gallons of Wine, purporting to have been bought by him of the defendant.

Mr. Tooke, examined by the Attorney-General.—He (Tooke) knew the defendant; these permits were obtained

explain some of the artifices employed. On referring to the note containing the ab-

with the knowledge of the defendant, and for the purpose of accounting, for the disappearance of a large quantity of Cape Wine, which was mixed with Sherry, and sold under the name of the latter. It was not sufficient to mix Cape and Sherry alone; any one would detect the imposture. The mixture thus formed, must be doctored, before it could be made to pass for Sherry. The mode of doctoring, was by mixing with the Wine, a composition, made of Bitter and Sweet Almonds, Powdered Oyster Shells, and Chalk; the Bitter Almonds gave the Wine a rough taste, which the Sweet Almonds, in some degree, softened; the Powdered Oyster Shells, and Chalk, refined the mixture. There was a large vat, in which the mixture was made. The vat was erected for this purpose; the mixture and doctoring were both made with the defendant's knowledge and approbation. Oldfield was then in the King's Bench Prison; witness had frequent conversations with the defendant, in prison, and carried him samples of the Wine thus mixed; the ingredients for doctoring the Wine were bought by witness; the bills then produced in court, were the druggist's bills for the same; witness was remunerated for these ingredients, by Porter, Oldfield's clerk. The defendant, Oldfield, carried on the business of a Wine Merchant, under the name of the Westminster Wine Company. *There were two mixtures of this Wine made in June 1823.* Oldfield went to prison in February 1822. *There were mixtures of this nature before Oldfield went to prison; Oldfield assisted at these mixtures before he went to prison.* Cape Wine was worth about 1s. 6d. per bottle, Sherry 3s. 6d.

The following witnesses were called for the defence:—

William Porter, examined by Mr. Lawes.—Was requested by Tooke, to write the request note for Buckby's permit; *never saw Oldfield mix Wines.*

stract of this trial, it will be seen, that, although the flavoring and mixing of Cape Wine with a portion of Sherry, to make the mixture sell for genuine Sherry, was not brought home to the defendant Oldfield,

The same witness examined by the Attorney-General.—He was a clerk, and kept the accounts ; never paid Tooke for Almonds and Oyster Shells ; did pay him for a bottle of stuff called flavor, which he afterwards heard contained such things ; the flavor was put into the Wine.

By Mr. Baron Garrow.—Recollects Wine being transferred to Mrs. Oldfield, but could not tell how much. He charged Mr. Oldfield with the flavor for which he had paid Tooke ; entered in the cash book so much paid for flavor.

George Bedell, Samuel Mole, and James Garven, servants of Oldfield, were called, and swore that they never saw any mixing of Wines going on.

The Attorney-General replied, and in the course of his observations, said he would not press for the penalties for not returning the permit. The Jury then retired for about a quarter of an hour, and, upon their coming into court again, returned a verdict for the crown, on one permit—that of Mr. Buckby's.

In this note is contained the whole of the trial, as it appeared in the 'Times,' with the omission of the speeches of the counsel, and the charge of Judge Garrow to the Jury ; likewise an examination of Tooke, not for the purpose of controverting his statement of facts, but to weaken his evidence by lowering his moral character.

Had the Jury found Oldfield guilty on all the counts, the first and second would have subjected him to a fine of 500*l.* each ; the third count, consisting of two offences, for not returning the permits 100*l.* each ; and the fourth count, for mixing the Wines, 300*l.*

yet, the drawing a fictitious permit, in order to account for the disproportionate decrease, which would be occasioned in his Cape Wine, was clearly established to his conviction. The way in which he had obtained room in his Sherry, to admit so much Cape Wine, without an increase appearing, must have been by his not drawing permits for the quantities of Sherry, or any other White Wines, (not being French or Cape) which he had occasion to send out, between the period at which the Excise Officer had surveyed his stock, and the time when the mixing took place, together with the assistance afforded him, as being an advertiser, by the quantities he had sold under one dozen.

That this system of adulteration had been frequently practised before, appeared also on the trial; and it may readily be inferred therefrom, (not to mention any thing of the extent to which it is carried, by others, through the medium of *vats*, much more capacious in size than those used by Oldfield,) that the profits are sufficiently adequate to occasion the risk of a casual detection, and consequent penalty, of no very great consequence, particularly, as there are several ways known to the skilful, of preventing

their publicity ; or should any doubt exist, on that which I have thus advanced, a further insight into the subject, will, I think, easily remove it.

It may, perhaps, be said, that to allow of any opportunity for carrying on the mixing of Wines, (or at all events in such large quantities as by the defendant Oldfield,) the exposure is too certain, and the temptation of receiving half the penalty, attached to the offence, too strong for the persons, who are ordinarily employed where such practices are carried on, to withstand, unless they are paid most exorbitant wages as the purchase of their secrecy. If my present limits would permit, I could detail many plans by which these difficulties are to be surmounted. *The singular fact, however, that the detection of this nefarious traffic was owing entirely to the disclosures of an accomplice, who was influenced by motives of revenge, and that the three men, besides the clerk, employed in the business, and on the premises, by Oldfield, swore in the course of the trial, that they had never seen any mixing of Wine whatever, going on, (although the fact had then been clearly established in the preliminary step to adulteration, of which he was convicted,) will, I apprehend, be conclusive enough as to*

there being no lack of means, in respect to the finding of opportunities for adulterating, without my perplexing my Readers with technical statements.

In proceeding to give an account of the various modes of adulterating Wine, and as a reason for rendering the proportions in the illustrative examples, relating to this part of the subject, on so large a scale, it is perhaps requisite to premise, that one of the grand secrets in the art of cheapening Wine, is by the *vatting*, or keeping a number of large vats in the which to mix and adulterate the different Wines.

It is an old saying, 'That good Wine needs no bush;' but when some of the uses to which these vats are applied, are fairly explained and understood, I think it will not be less obviously trite, 'That good Wine needs no vat.'

The present plan of adulterating, and particularly where the advertising concerns are large, is by the aid of vats, which vary in their contents from 800, to 1000, gallons each, and to describe fully the whole of the advantages derived from which, would require much greater space, than the limits of this work afford. To give my Readers, however, some idea of their ge-

neral utility, it must be understood that they are of excellent service in enabling the cheap Wine vender to adulterate to a greater extent, and more easily to combine the different compositions, intended to be introduced into them. The immense body of Wine lying together, tends greatly to assimilate the flavors, and more effectually to conceal from discovery, any extraneous matter which may be mixed in it. The Wine, by a judicious and varied selection, is made to possess a roundness of flavor, and to form a basis, as to body, sufficient to admit of a great deal, which costs little or nothing, and from their use, arises the numerous plausible arguments which are brought forward, to justify the appearance of such highly questionable reservoirs, by those advertisers who have them in their possession ; but the dangerous purpose, to which they may be, and are applied, are quite sufficient to deter every fair Dealer (if only for the sake of his credit), from resorting to their aid, and to induce every purchaser, decidedly to discountenance their use.

That, inferior Wines might be improved in vats, by being blended with good, if it were possible to prevent even their being adulterated, there can be but little doubt to

those acquainted with the nature of Wines in general ; but, alas ! no one except our modern adulterators themselves, and the very bung-holes of their vats, are acquainted with the nature of all the different articles of which the latter are made the receptacles. Brandy and Rum Cowe, (the rinsings of the puncheons as soon as the Spirit is taken from them,) slops of all descriptions, Cape Wine, Cyder, Colouring, Sal Tartar, with any thing else, which is, or is thought to be, capable of forming a tolerable basis, or in any other way useful in manufacturing a resemblance of the particular denomination of Wine, intended to be sold, are occasionally mixed together in their capacious bodies, and discharged again as genuine Port or Sherry, according to which Wine soever the contents of the vat, have been made up to represent.

On applying to a cheap Wine vender, possessed of *such highly advantageous and necessary utensils*, the first thing of which he speaks, is the wonderful extent to which his Wines, although originally of the finest quality, are improved by lying together in so large a body ; the next, that his selling exclusively for '*ready money only*,' enables him to part with his Wine at so low a

price, and that it scarcely affords him any profit at all. The Wine tastes full to the palate, is of brilliant colour, and if Port, the purchaser is assured (and with truth, for obvious reasons which shall be shown to my Readers,) that it will be quite crusted in two or three months. These, and other like assurances, conclude with a guarantee, that the Wine is warranted to turn out as represented, and that the cash, with all expences, will be returned, if it prove not to do so; though, be it observed, the seller cunningly manages to retain the nine points of law in his own favour, (namely, possession of the cash,) leaving only the poor remaining one to the purchaser, the value of which, he may probably have to estimate to his cost. The many quibbles,* by which this bargain is afterwards evaded, alone forcibly illustrate the notorious remark on one occasion made by an individual belonging to this famous class of advertisers, 'That a customer *once*, forms the extent of their

* As an instance of one evasion, which the Advertising and Placarding Dealers can make use of, it may be stated, that no private person, can possibly, (without subjecting himself to an information, and a heavy penalty), return any Wines or Spirits, into a Trader's stock, which have once been received therefrom.

expectations;' or, in other words, 'That the first application of a person to purchase Wine of them, is by their address; that a *second* visit, from the same party, and for a similar purpose, is by good luck !'

From the 'flattering tale' thus told, and which I have but imperfectly described, the result is, that the buyer is satisfied, concludes the purchase of the Wine for which he has been treating, *and as nothing else will do, pays down the cash for it*; whilst the placarder, (who has palmed on him, a spurious article for the genuine, the quality and flavor of which, is, to the taste of a person acquainted with the true quality of Wine, as unlike those of the genuine article, as it is spurious in its composition,) is all the time laughing in his sleeve, at the credulity of a customer, who, while he thinks he makes a bargain, is giving an impudent knave, a cash profit of forty per cent. only because the prices of his goods are twenty per cent. below those of a respectable Wine Merchant. If any doubt still remain, and it be necessary further to prove the truth of that which I have stated, as to the *excellence* and *value* of these vats, as a new contrivance for gulling the Public, and defrauding the Revenue, I need only refer to

the placards and advertisements of those who are known to have adopted the vat system, and request my Readers to observe the difference between the prices quoted by them, and those, by others of their fraternity, who, although they have the same advantages in respect to purchasing, yet, having no vats, happen not to be possessed of the same valuable means, to enable them to vend, on quite so low a scale as their more fortunate rivals.

An additional method, however, which I ought not to pass over without a few remarks, as forming another source from whence a considerable profit is derived, and by means of which, it will be seen a tolerable degree of imposition can be practised, is with respect to the size of bottles. From my long connexion with the Wine Trade, I have necessarily been brought into contact, and become intimately acquainted, with many Bottle Merchants, from whose information, coupled with my own judgment and experience, I can state several facts on this head, which have a near relation to the exposures I have already made. The bottles, as measured off, by the workmen employed for the purpose, consist of six various sizes; but which, as making no

real difference, still retain their titles as applying to the old measure. The terms by which they are known in the trade, are

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Full Quarts, | Small Fourteens, |
| Thirteens, | Fifteens, |
| Fourteens, | Sixteens, |

and, in giving a Scale, showing the relative number of bottles of each size, required to take three gallons of liquid, according to the *old measure*, to fill them, and setting forth the proportionate alteration, which may be occasioned in the price per dozen, by the use of either size in bottling a pipe of Port, supposed to stand the Dealer in 76*l.* with all expenses, and allowing three gallons to be taken off as bottoms, it is with the most perfect conviction that a considerable portion of the mystery of our advertisers vending at such extraordinary prices, will be explained to the satisfaction of my Readers.

A SCALE,

Showing the number of bottles of either size required to take three gallons of liquid, according to the old measure, to fill them, and the proportionate alteration in price, occasioned by the use of each of them, in bottling a pipe of Port of the standard quantity of 138 gallons, (equivalent to 115 gallons of the new Imperial measure), supposed to cost the Dealer 76*l.* with all expences included, and allow-

ing three gallons, (agreeable to the old measure) to be deducted as the bottoms :

| Denomination by which the dif- ferent sizes are known. | The number of Bottles of each size, ca- pable of con- taining 3 gal- lons of liquid, old measure. | The relative prices per doz. as occasioned by the use of each size in the bottling of pipe of Port as stated. | | The total number of bot- tles of each size the pipe would run when bottled. |
|---|---|--|------------------|--|
| | | s. | d. | |
| Full Quarts | 12 | 33 | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 540 |
| Thirteens | 13 | 31 | 2 | 585 |
| Fourteens | 14 | 28 | 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 630 |
| Small Fourteens | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 27 | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 652 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fifteens | 15 | 27 | 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 675 |
| Sixteens | 16 | 25 | 4 | 720 |

It will require but a very slight glance at this Scale, to observe the difference which may be made by the bottles alone, to enable the cheap sellers to advertise at a lower rate ; and with reference to the distribution of the various sizes to each class of Dealers, it may be stated as a fact, no less notorious to every individual in the trade, than it is to all the Bottle Merchants in London, that by far the greatest proportion of the two latter sizes, viz. Fifteens and Sixteens, are sold to the Gin-shop and Wholesale cheap Wine venders, that the Full Quarts are in more general use for Spirits, and that the

remaining sizes, with but very few exceptions indeed, are purchased by the respectable Wine Merchant, the Wine Cooper, and those of the Gin-shop-keepers, who serve, as they would be served.

Leaving, however, in the hands of my Readers, the many inferences which may be drawn from this plan of defrauding the Public, of their fair and reasonable measure,*

* In treating on this subject of short measure, with regard to bottles, it may not be amiss to mention a circumstance relating to a part of the profits of many of our modern Gin-shop-keepers, arising from a mode they have of cheating their poor dram-drinkers, out of their fair allowance of Gin, &c. It bespeaks the state of refinement, to which their ingenuity has arrived, in this respect, and the fact is, of itself, not a little curious. The means by which a certain additional profit is obtained, is technically called in the trade 'by the turn of the glass,' and may be thus explained.



The glasses made use of for the poor people, to drink their Spirits from, are shaped thus; the counter of the bar is covered with lead, perforated with holes, having a communication with a cask. Now as for obvious reasons, the glasses, although scarcely holding the measure when filled to the brim, are seldom so filled, at least to within the eighth or sixteenth of an inch, from the chance, that in all probability as much would be spilled, and run into the cask placed to receive it; a quantity equal to the portion contained in three quarters of an inch or more, at

I will now proceed to the adulterations* of Wine.

PORT WINE.

The most usual mode of adulterating this Wine, may be said to consist, in admixing the following articles in various proportions, with whatever different qualities and quantities of it in its genuine state, may be re-

the bottoms of what are termed their half-quartern glasses, is thus saved to the seller, and an extra profit, reckoned at about seven and a half per cent. derived therefrom, amounting to not a very inconsiderable sum of money, even where there is only a tolerable consumption. So valuable indeed, is this source of profit, to several of our large Gin-shop-keepers, that they now refuse to serve their customers, in any pewter measures, under a half-pint, relying on the notoriety which they have acquired, to counterbalance any advantage, which this circumstance may give those, who do not refuse to serve, even the smallest quantities, in the regular measures.

* 'Wines are usually doctored, as it is called, in order to give them particular flavors, and render them similar to some celebrated Grape Wines. Thus, *Bitter Almonds* are added to give a nutty flavor; *Sweet Briar*, *Orris Root*, *Clary*, *Cherry-laurel Water*, and *Elder-flowers*, to form the bouquet of high flavored Wines; *Alum*, to render young and meagre Red Wines bright; *Brazil Wood*, *Cake of pressed Elderberries* and *Bilberries*, to render pale, faint Port, of a rich deep purple colour; *Oak Sawdust*, and the *Husks of Filberts*, to give additional astringency to unripe Red Wines; and a *Tincture of the Seeds of Raisins*, to flavor fictitious Port.' Vide, *The Vintners' and Licensed Victuallers' Guide*, p. 259.

quired to answer the views of the cheap Wine seller.

BENECARLO,* a strong coarse Spanish Red Wine, known by the denomination of *Spanish Black Strap*, to be purchased, including duty, at about 38*l.* per pipe of 115 gallons.

FIGUERA,* a Red Wine from the province of Estremadura, in Portugal, of intermediate quality between *Black Strap* and inferior Port, bearing a nearer resemblance to the latter, and generally to be bought at 45*l.* per pipe of 115 gallons, duty included.

RED CAPE, which, from its low rate of duty, may be had, including that charge,

* It will be proper to remark, that no restriction exists as to mixing one Red Wine with another, providing they both pay the same rate of duty, or one White Wine with another, under a similar proviso; but White Wines cannot legally be mixed with Red, nor can any Wines, whatever, be put together, unless under the circumstance of their duties being equal. Benecarlo and Figuera Wines, pay the same duty as Port, and the fact of an enormous quantity being used of them, and of their being applied to the purposes I have described, and no other, could be fully proved, by a return from the London Dock Company of the immense number of pipes of both Wines, which, as is notorious to all of the trade, are yearly imported into, and cleared from thence, to the premises of our cheap sellers, although we never see them mentioned in any of their placards or advertisements, under their proper denomination.

for about 32*l.* per pipe of ninety-one gallons, consequently, forming a profitable ingredient.

MOUNTAIN, a small quantity, if required, to soften and give an appearance of richness.

SAL TARTAR, a portion to occasion the Compound, when bottled, to crust firm and soon, dissolved with a proportionate quantity of

GUM DRAGON to impart a fullness of flavor and consistency of body; and to give the whole a face.

BERRY-DYE,* a colouring matter extracted from *German Bilberries*, and known under this name. In addition to these may be introduced,

* 'Take Rasplings of Red Sanders, six ounces, Spirits of Wine, one quart; infuse fourteen days, and filter through paper for use. *It produces a beautiful red colour for Port Wine.*'

'The Juice of Elderberries, one gallon, Lump Sugar, twelve pounds; boil together for half an hour, taking off the scum as it rises; strain through a flannel bag, and keep for use. *It produces a beautiful colour for imitation Wines.*' Vide, *The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide*, p. 258.

'When Red Wines are deficient of colour, use the best *Brandy Colouring*; and for the acquisition of a pleasant roughness peculiar to Port, the Juice of Sloes will accomplish it, when judiciously incorporated in the Wine.' Vide, *Palmer's Publicans' Director*, page 91.

BRANDY COWE, explained at the close of my remarks on Brandy, and which costs nothing, in the proportion of about three gallons to every hundred gallons of made up Wine. Another ingredient that may also be mentioned, is,

CYDER,* but, as this is only made use of where a second quality of manufactured Port is required, it may be unnecessary to render any other illustration than that which

* ‘ *An excellent recipe to make neat Port. Let the hogs-head be matched, then fill as follows :*

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 12 | gallons of strong Port, |
| 6 | — of Rectified Spirits, |
| 3 | — of Cognac Brandy, |
| 42 | — of <i>Fine Rough Cyder.</i> |
| 63 | Cost about 18s. per dozen.’ |

Vide, *Palmer’s Publicans’ Director*, page 145.

‘ *Imitation Port Wine. Good Cyder*, forty-five gallons ; Brandy, six gallons ; good Port Wine, eight gallons ; ripe Sloes, two gallons ; stew them in two gallons of Water, press off the liquor and add to the rest : if the colour is not strong enough, add Tincture of Red Sanders or Cudbear. In a few days, this Wine may be bottled ; add to each bottle, a tea-spoonfull of the powder of catechu, mixing it well : it will very soon produce a fine crusted appearance, the bottles being packed on their sides as usual : soak the ends of the corks in a strong decoction of Brazil Wood, with a little Alum, which, along with the crust, gives an appearance of age.’ Vide, *The Vintners’ and Licenced Victuallers’ Guide*, page 79.

I am about to give, to show the application of this, as one of the articles used, particularly as that which constitutes an example of the best and most general method of adulteration, will sufficiently explain to my Readers, the value of our advertisers' and placarders' concerns. In order, however, properly to combine the several ingredients mentioned, so as to answer the Dealer's purpose best, (in the variety of respects already named,) it is necessary to erect a vat which will contain from 500 to 1,000 gallons. Into this may be racked as follows :

| | Imp. gals. | | £ | | Im gals. | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---------------|----------------|----|-----|-------------|-------|------|----|----|
| 2 Pipes of Benecarlo | 230 | at | 38 | per | 115 | costs | 76 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Pipes of Figuera | 230 | | 45 | | 115 | | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| 1½ Pipes of Red Cape | 137 | | 32 | | 91 | | 48 | 3 | 6 |
| 1½ Pipes of Stout Good Port | 165 | | 76 | | 115 | | 109 | 0 | 10 |
| 1 Pipe of Common Port | 115 | | 63 | | 115 | | 63 | 0 | 0 |
| Mountain . . | 20 | | 60 | | 105 | | 11 | 8 | 7 |
| Brandy Cowe . | 20 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Colouring . . | 3 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| *Etceteras . . | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| — Extra allowance for loss by the bottoms | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 Pipes of Port, of 115 | | | | | | | | | |
| gals. each Pipe, are | 920 | Imperial gals. | | | | | £400 | 0 | 0 |
| * 2½ pounds Sal Tartar, dissolved in water, with about 3 pounds of Gum Dragon, and introduced with the finings. | | | | | | | | | |

The value of the empty pipes and hogsheads, which is 5*l.* 5*s.* not being deducted from the amount in this Example, is supposed to pay all expences of cartage, that part of the etceteras which may not be sufficiently charged, or paid for, by the water used to dissolve them, and which is sold as Wine, and for any additional loss which may be sustained by the bottoms.

Thus then, we have eight pipes of *superior Port Wine*, made up, according to the best and most approved plan, and which stands our Advertising and Placarding Dealers only in 50*l.* per pipe of 115 Imperial gallons, every expence included, and reckoned at the very outside ; or should even this be manufactured at too high a price, to render their profits sufficiently adequate to support that degree of *modesty* for which they are so famous, a slight variation, in the proportion of any of the ingredients, need only be made, to produce a considerable alteration in their favour.

By a very simple calculation it will also be shown, that the Wine thus made up, if drawn off in bottles of the size of *sixteen* to the three gallons, old measure, and adding a charge of 6*d.* per dozen extra, for corks, would cost only 16*s.* 9*d.* per dozen—if in

the size of bottles termed *fifteens*, 17s. 9d. per dozen; and the mystery, therefore, of their advertising *genuine* Port Wines at 23s. 6d. and 24s. per dozen, and in pipes, hogsheads, and quarter casks, at the rate of 63*l.* and 65*l.* per pipe, is at once explained. Should, however, any further confirmation be still required; the following Scale, showing the cost per dozen, to the Advertising Dealer, of Port Wines in the London Docks, duty paid, and reckoned from such as are scarcely drinkable, to those of the finest quality, if cleared home and drawn off in one of the smaller size of bottles in use, (*viz. fifteens*,) must clearly convince my Readers, that no other than this adulterating system is practised, particularly as nothing is calculated in the Scale, about to be submitted, for the expences of advertising, placarding, and distributing printed bills, and independently of the fact, that Wines of the lowest quality, in dock, are by no means saleable to the Public, until they have undergone a course of doctoring, &c. *in the large Wine vats*, to say nothing of the facilities which certain Dealers possess of doing so.

A SCALE,

Showing the cost price, per dozen, of Wines in dock, from such as are scarcely drinkable, to those of the finest qualities, if cleared home and bottled in fifteens, (three gallons, according to the old measure, to be deducted from each pipe of 138 gallons, old standard, equal to 115 gallons new, as bottoms,) the value of each cask supposed to pay the expences of clearing from the docks, and cartage, sixpence per dozen being added for charge of corks, and fivepence per dozen more, for expences of bottling, laths, sawdust, &c.

| Cost prices per pipe, of Port Wines, from the lowest drink- able qualities to those of the fin- est description. | Cost prices by the dozen of each pipe, if bottled as stated in Fifteens. | Cost prices per pipe, of Port Wines, from the lowest drink- able qualities to those of the fin- est description. | Cost prices by the dozen of each pipe, if bottled as stated in Fifteens. |
|--|---|--|---|
| per pipe. | per dozen. | per pipe. | per dozen. |
| £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| 60 | 22 3 | 85 | 31 1½ |
| 63 | 23 3¼ | 90 | 32 11 |
| 65 | 24 0¼ | 95 | 34 8¼ |
| 70 | 25 9½ | 100 | 36 5½ |
| 75 | 27 7 | 105 | 38 3 |
| 80 | 29 4⅓ | 110 | 40 0¼ |

I leave my Readers to decide, after inspecting this Scale, whether a profit of 1s. 3d. or 1s. 9d. per dozen, (and without reckoning the expences of advertising, &c.) be adequate to support the extensive esta-

blishments, these placarding concerns have become, and yet, at the same time, to allow of splendid fortunes, being realized. I have endeavoured to prove the existence and manner of the adulterating practices, with respect to Port Wine, (which, evidently, in part facilitate the attainment of such splendid fortunes); and I think I have offered sufficient facts on this item of my subject, to induce every individual, before he is prevailed on to part with his money for an article, adulterated to a degree, the extent of which, but very few have any idea, to weigh well the pretensions of the placarders and advertisers, who profess to sell so much below respectable Wine Merchants—more especially as the latter possess quite as extensive a knowledge of the market as do the placarders themselves, and equal means of purchasing as advantageously. I now, therefore, proceed to expose the adulterations of

SHERRY.

Since the Pale Sherries have become so much in fashion, the operations of our adulterators, have chiefly been confined, to the making up of compositions to advertise and sell, under this denomination. For this

purpose, the basis most generally employed, has been the coarse, highly brandied, *Brown Sherries*, as they are to be purchased much lower than the Pale, although such as are of a superior kind, fetch prices altogether as much higher.

To a portion of this low description of Brown Sherry, is introduced *Cape, Brandy Cowe*, and numerous other ingredients, in varied proportions, according to the tastes of the different makers up, and their experience, as to what will best assist in deceiving the Public. My object, however, will be to point out, as I have done respecting Port Wine, that which is considered, by our cheap sellers, the most effective mode of doctoring and manufacturing a fictitious resemblance of Pale Sherry. I shall leave my Readers to infer therefrom, the means which are employed to prepare or adulterate any other kind of Sherry, (whether to be sold as *Brown* or *Amber-Coloured*,) and also, from the illustrative Scale, which I am about to submit, (although only calculated as to what is supposed to make up the best imitation of the genuine article, and adopted but by a few of our more knowing Advertising Dealers,) enable them to form some *slight* estimate of the profitable nature, and

general character, of the concerns at which such mixtures are vended.

Pale Sherries, in general, as possessing scarcely any body, being less prominent in point of flavor than the Brown, or as they are commonly termed, being light delicate Wines, on which accounts they are usually preferred to the darker Wines of the same name, allow perhaps of a greater extent of adulteration than almost any other Wine whatever, and a ready sale for them, is aided in no trifling degree, by the circumstance of so much depending on pleasing the eye as to colour, than with respect to which (and paleness of colour, in particular), nothing is more easy to accomplish, in fictitious, and manufactured White Wines.

To the requisite proportion of coarse Brown Sherry, which may be purchased at about 60*l.* per butt, of 108 Imperial gallons, the articles made use of, in what is considered the best mode of making up a resemblance of Pale Sherry, or where the number of spurious ingredients employed for the purpose, are fewest, and in the smallest proportions, consist of the following, in relative quantities—

CAPE, (to be bought, including duty, for about 22*l.* per pipe of ninety-one gallons,)

previously fined, and racked bright from the lees.

BRANDY COWE, which costs nothing, but is useful in lessening the body of the mixture, so as to give it the appearance of being a light-bodied Wine.

EXTRACT OF ALMOND CAKE,* (used also in the adulteration of Brandy), to impart a nutty flavor.

CHERRY-LAUREL WATER, a small quantity, generally in order to check the predominance of the Almond Cake, and to give a roundness of flavor; or, if it be *Brown*

* On reference to the trial of Oldfield, it will be seen that the composition applied by him to impart the proper flavor to his adulterated Wine, was formed of a mixture of Sweet and Bitter Almonds, with Powdered Oyster Shells* and Chalk, the two latter ingredients being added, to bind and concentrate the whole. By those, however, of our advertisers, who, are even more knowing than Mr. Oldfield, the Extract of Almond Cake is usually preferred, as not having so great a tendency to alter the face of the Wine, or render it less transparent, and also as it is supposed to impart a more delicate flavor.

‘ As some Sherry Wines, are often impregnated with too

* ‘ To prepare Oyster Powder. Get some fresh Oyster-shells, wash them, and scrape off the yellow part from the outside; lay them on a clear fire till they become red-hot; when cold, take the softest part, powder it, and sift it through a fine sieve; after which you may use it immediately, or keep it in bottles, well corked, and laid in a dry place.’ Vide, *The Vintners’ and Licenced Victuallers’ Guide*, page 221.

Sherry that is to be adulterated, or manufactured, to enable the vender to sell it as such.

GUM BENZOIN* is often made use of, in the place of Extract of Almond Cake, as it causes the mixture, to bear a nearer resemblance to the particular flavor, possessed by the Brown Sherry, as distinguished from the Pale: if, however, the composition be intended for *Pale Sherry*, it is supposed to be completed, after the several ingredients (with the exception of the latter), have been well rummaged together with the Wine; and when, (in order, to extract a sufficient portion of the colour, to render it pale,)

hot a stimulant, which predominates over that softness of taste peculiar to good Sherry, the following explicit instructions will enable you to meliorate such to a surprising degree; take of White Sugar Candy, or Honey, six pounds, for a butt, and also two pounds of Jordan Almonds, and one pound of Bitter Almonds, pounded; then draw off some Sherry from the cask, and add a suitable portion of any other soft pleasant Wine, which will tend to temper the hot taste of the Sherry, whenever it is required.' Vide, *The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide*, page 233.

* This article is a component part of the medicament, called Friar's Balsam; it is used in the manufacture of spurious Arrack, as well as for the purpose I have here pointed out.

LAMB'S BLOOD† has been employed with the finings. This is done in the proportion of three pints of Blood, to every hundred gallons of the compound, if it is to appear distinctly as Pale Sherry; but if it be only meant to pass for Amber-Coloured Sherry, one pint and a half of this delectable ingredient is enough. The whole mixture, however, after lying ten days or so, is bottled off, or racked into quarter casks, &c. and is then considered fit to be advertised, and sold as *genuine* Sherry, under whichever character, as to colour, it

† The properties of this article, will almost exceed belief:—The chemical decomposition of colour, which it occasions in the Wine which receives its aid, is so extremely rapid, that, in the course of five or six hours, the Wine becomes completely changed, from brown, to pale; and such is the power it possesses, that, comparatively, only, a very slight increase in the quantity of it, usually employed to manufacture Pale Sherry, is required to reduce a dark brown Wine, to the colour of tinged water. By a few of our Adulterators, Skimmed Milk, has been employed, to answer the same purpose as Lamb's Blood, but its effect has been found to be so very deficient in several respects, that, I believe, its use is now entirely superseded by the latter more valuable ingredient.

‘If a butt of Sherry is too high in colour, take a quart of warm Sheep or Lamb's Blood, mix it with the Wine, and when thoroughly fine, draw it off, when you will find the colour as pale as necessary. The colour of other Wines, if required, may be taken off in the same manner.’ Vide, *The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide*, page 234.

has been made to represent. Another article sometimes introduced, and supposed to be a capital material to assist in the manufacture of fictitious Sherry, on the best system to deceive the Public, is

BRITISH RAISIN WINE; but as my information is not so conclusive as to this being much in use, any further than with a very few, even of those who are considered the cleverest adepts; for the sake of accuracy in detail, I have not included it, in the Example, I am about to submit.

For the purpose of mingling, and intimately combining, in the most effectual manner, the different ingredients, for the making up of spurious Pale Sherry, which I have thus placed before my Readers; the erection of a vat, or vats, is not less necessary and advantageous, than for the fabrication of Port; independently of Sherry being a Wine almost as much in demand as the latter, and therefore, required to be made up in quantities nearly, if not quite, as large. Thus, into a vat containing from 800 to 1000 gallons, may be racked as follows: (the pipes of Cape mentioned in the Scale, having been previously fined and drawn off bright from the bottoms; for which expence an allowance is made in the cost price.)

| | Imperial gallons. | | £ | | Imperial gallons. | | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----------------------|----|----|-----|----------------------|-------|------|----|----|
| 3 Pipes of Cape (quite clear from the lees) | 273 | at | 25 | per | 91 | costs | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 Butts of coarse Brown Sherry | 432 | | 60 | | 108 | } | 240 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 Butt, of better quality | 107 | | 65 | | 108 | | 64 | 8 | 0 |
| Brandy Cowe . . | 50 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extract of Almond Cake | 1½ | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Cherry-laurel Water | 0½ | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Allowance for loss — by the bottoms . | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 Butts of Sherry, of 108 gallons each butt, are | 864 Imperial gals. | | | | | | £384 | 0 | 0 |

In order to extract the colour from this compound, so as to render it Pale; three gallons of Lamb's Blood (the sooner it is used after the animal is killed the better), must be beat up, with the proper proportion of finings, (viz. four gallons), introduced into the vat, and well stirred round with its contents.

According to this Scale, which is a true and correct example of the plan generally adopted, as partaking of the least adulteration, we have eight butts of 108 gallons each, of a most delightful mixture, which

costs only 48*l.* per butt, at the very outside; the expences being much more than paid in the value of the casks, (5*l.* 5*s.*) which has not before been taken into consideration, or deducted from the total amount, to lessen the cost per butt; and in the course of a few days after the finings and Lamb's Blood have been put in, it is ready to be advertised as '*Fine Pale Sherry of peculiar delicacy and flavor!*'—If bottled in '*fifteens,*' and 6*d.* per dozen be added for charge of corks, the cost price, per dozen, would be 18*s.* 2½*d.*—if in the size of bottles termed '*sixteens,*' 16*s.* 11½*d.* per dozen. As stated by our different advertisers and placarders, the prices for sale are 24*s.*; 25*s.* 6*d.*; 27*s.*; 28*s.* 6*d.*; and 30*s.** per dozen; and, without dwelling on the variety of inferences that may be drawn from this point, the following

* It should be observed, that another mode these worthies have of increasing their profits, is by selling the same Wine which is advertised at so low a rate, for that for which a higher price is quoted; thus, in applying for at quantity of Wine at 30*s.* per dozen, you are supplied with identically the same Wine as is advertised, and sold, at 24*s.* per dozen. If you apply for some, the price of which is stated as at 36*s.* or 42*s.* per dozen, you are served from that, which is occasionally sold as of tempting quality, at 30*s.* per dozen, and so on through their whole scale of prices.

Scale, showing the cost prices, per dozen, of genuine Sherries, both Pale and Brown, in dock, duty paid, from the lowest qualities to the highest, and although purchased in the cheapest manner, if cleared home and bottled in '*fifteens*,' (6*d.* per dozen being reckoned for corks, and 5*d.* per dozen more for expences of bottling, laths, saw-dust, &c. the value of each cask supposed to pay for cartage and clearing from docks,) will, I apprehend, as fully establish the fact, as to the universal existence of the adulterations, practised with this Wine, amongst our cheap sellers, as a similar Scale has already proved their existence in Port Wine. With respect to both instances, nothing can be more barefaced and glaring, because it will be seen, that the cost, per dozen, even of the lowest qualities of the genuine Wines, and of such as are at all drinkable, is much too high to permit them to be advertised, and sold, at the prices, at which they are offered :—still less, that such prices should enable the venders to support the numerous charges and expences, to which the nature of their traffic, unavoidably subjects them.

A SCALE,

Showing the cost prices, per dozen, of genuine Pale and Brown Sherries, from the very lowest qualities and prices of such as are at all drinkable, to those of the highest description, if cleared home and bottled in 'fifteens.' Each butt is supposed to contain the new standard quantity of 108 Imperial gallons; equivalent to 130 gallons of the *old standard measure*. Two gallons and four-fifths, according to the latter measure, deducted in the calculation, as the bottoms; sixpence per dozen reckoned extra for corks; fivepence per dozen more, for expences of bottling, laths, saw-dust, &c.; and the value of each cask, to pay for cartage and clearing from docks.

| Cost prices per butt of genuine Pale Sherry, from the lowest drinkable qualities to the very finest description. | | Cost price by the dozen of each butt, according to the quality, if bottled, as stated. | | Cost prices per butt of genuine Brown Sherry, from the lowest drinkable qualities to the very finest description. | | Cost price by the dozen of each butt, according to the quality, if bottled, as stated. | |
|--|--|--|------------------|---|--|--|------------------|
| Per butt. | | Per dozen. | | Per butt. | | Per dozen. | |
| £ | | s. | d. | £ | | s. | d. |
| 65 | | 25 | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 58 | | 22 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 70 | | 27 | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 60 | | 23 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 75 | | 29 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 63 | | 24 | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 80 | | 31 | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 68 | | 26 | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 85 | | 32 | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 72 | | 28 | 1 |
| 90 | | 34 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 78 | | 30 | 4 |
| 95 | | 36 | 9 | 82 | | 31 | 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 100 | | 38 | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 86 | | 33 | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 105 | | 40 | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 92 | | 35 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 0 | | 0 | 0 | 98 | | 37 | 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 0 | | 0 | 0 | 105 | | 40 | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 0 | | 0 | 0 | 110 | | 42 | 5 |

Having thus, I think, effectually proved by minute explanations and calculations, the truth of my assertions, respecting the adulterations practised by the majority of our advertisers and placarders, with the two leading articles of Wine, viz. Port and Sherry, it may not be necessary, (except in a general way,) to go through the minutiae, of similar practices, with regard to other Wines; as like facts and arguments, will exactly apply to them, as well, whether it be, with respect to the circumstance of their being adulterated, or to the convincing testimony which the following affords:—‘*That even the lowest, and scarcely drinkable, quality of Wines, must stand our advertising gentlemen in prices too high, to allow of their being retailed in quantities of a few gallons, or dozens, and in a genuine state, at the terms quoted in their placards and advertisements,*’ except where the imposition, carried into effect, is by substituting one Wine for another. This can only be done, where the character and flavor of each resembles the other; and even then, it is only adopted where there is sufficient difference in cost, to render it worth the while of the Advertising Dealer. At the head, therefore, of the remaining

Wines, which it is my intention to notice under their respective titles, but *in a general way*, I shall commence with,

EAST INDIA MADEIRA.

The character and description of this Wine, as considered the best, and bearing the highest price in the market, is, that which is possessed of the greatest richness and flavor, without any of that apparent tendency to acidity and want of body, by which the lower qualities of it are distinguished. The most approved of the *West India Madeira Wines*, though seldom purchased at so high a price, in many instances, in point of quality, rank before those, which belong to the inferior class of East India Madeiras, and one of the frauds, therefore, committed on the Public, through the medium of the extraordinary cheap prices we daily see advertised, is, by the substitution and sale of the article of West India Madeira, for the finest quality of that on which I am now treating.

The method whereby the adulteration, or rather the manufacture of a spurious imitation, of East India Madeira is performed, is, by admixing a portion of the genuine Wine, with a quantity of *Vidonia*, or, *Direct*

Madeira, and *East India Cape*; fined, and racked bright from the lees; the latter, though bearing a much higher price, than Cape, which has not had the benefit of a voyage, from the Cape of Good Hope to the East Indies, and thence back to London, forming a valuable ingredient, to assist in lowering the cost, so as to enable the advertiser, to placard the composition, (which, however, bears no kind of relation, either in costliness or quality, to the genuine article), as ‘*Fine Old East India Madeira*, at unprecedented cheap prices, for ready money only.’ With respect to

WEST INDIA MADEIRA,

Which ranks next to the article on which I have just remarked; if intended to be made up, so as to partake of the least adulteration, and to be, as our cheap sellers term it, ‘of capital quality,’ the following is the mode in which it is treated: to a portion of good West India Madeira, is added a quantity of *Old Thin Direct Madeira*, which would otherwise be unsaleable, and to which, if too nearly approaching to acidity, a few ounces of *Carbonate of Soda* is applied, in order to rid it of that quality, and render it more fit for use. After being well

rummaged together in the cask or vat, if it be thought by the maker up, too poor, a small quantity of *Mountain*, is introduced to enrich it. The whole, however, when thus mixed up, on the plan to answer the views of the most conscientious of our advertisers, constitutes the article, sold under the title of '*Fine Old Soft-flavored West India Madeira*,' at prices, which leave a profit, of, at least twenty-five per cent. although, if genuine, it would cost an equal per centage more. The Wine, to which I now proceed, as possessing the next relation in point of character, is

MADEIRA,

Commonly distinguished by the name of, *Direct Madeira*; on account of its being shipped direct from the Island of Madeira to this country, without the benefit of a voyage, to the West or East Indies. A very little, however, which is sold by our cheap advertisers and placarders as Madeira, is genuine, or will be found in the composition, which they dispose of under its title. The best manufacture of a fictitious resemblance of the real Wine, is said to consist, of a combination of *cheap Vidonia*, with a proportion of about one twentieth

part *common dry Port*, one tenth part *Mountain*, and about a fifth part *Cape*, the whole being mixed together. This compound, when properly fined, and reduced to the required colour, by means of *Lamb's Blood*, is considered excellent; and, with that *modest assurance*, which distinguishes the whole tribe of advertisers, is sold with the greatest success, under the denomination of '*Old London Particular*,' or, any other appellation, by which they choose to designate it; and which is aided, in no trifling degree, by the curious circumstance, of their prices being twenty per cent. less, and their profits ten per cent. greater, *than those of the more scrupulous Wine Merchants, who do not attempt to adulterate*. It will be necessary only shortly to notice

VIDONIA WINE,

As it is termed, which is brought from the Island of Teneriffe; and sometimes called by the latter title,* because, the

* 'Much of it has been actually sold under the name of Madeira, after it has been skilfully prepared, thereby affording an ample profit, as the Teneriffe is a much cheaper Wine than Madeira. But the addition of half a pound of Bitter Almonds, and two pounds of Sugar Candy, the former bruised, and the latter dissolved, to the proportion of every forty gallons, will render the flavor truly admirable.' Vide, *The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide*, p. 236.

only difference which exists between its adulteration and that of Direct Madeira, (both Wines, when genuine, greatly resembling each other,) is merely the addition of a portion of *Cyder*, or *British made Wine*; if the former be used, all tendency to an acid taste,* is to be taken from it by means of *Carbonate of Soda*; and all chance of its retaining any fixed air, or effervescent quality, by the application of one gallon, of strong *Neutral-flavored Rum*, to every twenty gallons of *Cyder*. Thus, in making up a cask, or vat, of this Vidonia Wine, add, as with Madeira, one twentieth part *common dry Port*, one tenth part *Mountain*, one tenth part old *Cyder*, (after being prepared, as described) and about a fourth part *Cape*, to the relative proportion of inferior *Teneriffe Wine*; and, according to the opinions of our advertisers, after it is fined, and the colour has been properly extracted by the operation of that delectable agent, (*Lamb's Blood*,) we have a most excellent

† The following is given in 'The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide,' page 258. 'To correct acidity in Wines, &c. Fresh slacked Lime is the most effective article for destroying acidity in all fermented liquors, perfectly neutralizing the acid, and producing only a harmless sediment, which soon falls to the bottom of the vessel.'

sample of the '*Old Vidonia Wines*,' ready for sale, on the most inviting terms, as to character and cheapness.

BUCELLAS.

Previously to my speaking of the adulterations of this Wine, I would make one remark as to an imposition, very generally practised, in order to avoid the trouble of making up a composition, and also to advertise the article, as of the choicest quality. This is, by the substitution of *Thin dry Lisbon*, a quantity of which, during the last season, (in consequence of there not being a sufficient supply of inferior Bucellas, to meet the demands of those who required a second description), was, I understand, made up to bear some likeness to the genuine Bucellas, and in some instances, the better qualities of it were actually shipped as such. The method of manufacturing a second-rate quality of spurious Bucellas, to the dry Lisbon I have just mentioned, so as to pass for the genuine article, is, by the admixture of *Cape Bucellas*; (a Wine, which bears some resemblance, in point of character, but which still retains the earthy flavor by which all Cape Wines are so well known) a

portion of *Thin dry Lisbon*, and a quantum of *Brandy Cowe*, which latter ingredient is highly serviceable in diminishing the body, and giving the whole a light, delicate appearance. This composition, with a proportion of about one half of the genuine Wine, produces that which is advertised, and sold, as '*Fine old delicately Pale Bucellas*,' remarkably cheap, for *ready money only*.

TENT.

So little, that is disposed of, by our advertisers and placarders, under this denomination, is the *foreign and genuine Tent Wine*, that although but a small portion is sold, in comparison with other Wines; yet, the impositions, of which it is made the medium, deserve a short notice in this Treatise, more particularly, as the greater part of its consumers, who are the sick and invalid, are led to believe, (except in a very few cases,) that it is the foreign Tent which they purchase. The chief, and most general imposition practised, is the substitution and sale of British Tent; a compound, manufactured by the Rectifiers, and as unlike the foreign (which is from the juice of the grape), in flavor and *beneficial* quality, as can well be

imagined in two things intended to resemble each other. By those cheap sellers, who may be supposed to possess a larger share of conscience, Cape Tent is substituted, or the foreign and genuine Wine occasionally disposed of, in a mixed state only.*

RED CAPE,

Advertised under various denominations, such as *Cape Port*, *Pontac*, &c. It is but very recently that this Wine, has become an article of sale, in the placards, and advertisements, of our cheap sellers, and the

* Tent is a sweet Red Wine, used principally in the administering of the Sacrament, and is given to children and infirm persons. This Wine, as well as others, has lately been greatly adulterated,* not only by the merchant, but to my knowledge even by a *pious* divine, who had the privilege of furnishing the Lord's Table himself, (which in some parishes ministers have done without controul,) and made a sordid profit by mixing *British Tent with Port Wine*; but, alas! this admixture was to him a cup of sorrow and bitter affliction, when the report thereof was made to the Honourable Board of Excise; he, in consequence, was considered an unlicenced Dealer, his whole stock of Wines was then seized, and a heavy fine imposed upon him. Vide, *Palmers' Publicans' Director*, page 88.

* 'In a case which came before the Court of King's Bench, lately, it came out that common Sicilian Wine, which is not worth more than from 12*l.* to 13*l.* per pipe, is frequently sold as *Tokay*, *Lacryma Christi*, and *La Creme Divinal*! Vide, *Palmers' Publicans' Director*, page 88.

object of its introduction there, is not a little obvious, to all acquainted with what are termed the secrets of the trade; particularly, as no extraordinary low prices are quoted for it, (except in a very few instances), nor is it in any way made a leading article, as is the case occasionally, with Cape Madeira and Cape Sherry. The adulteration of it, when required, is performed by the admixture of that proportion of *Cyder*, and the colouring matter called *Berry-dye*, necessary, to answer the extent to which the placarder wishes to reduce the cost price. The chief end, however, in view, in advertising it for sale, is, to give as plausible a face to the possession of it as possible, so that when the adulterator, uses it in his Port Wine, in which a requisite decrease has previously been obtained, the disappearance of a nearly similar quantity of Red Cape, to occupy the place of that decrease, may not have any singular or suspicious appearance. This would be the case, did he not give some reason, (by placarding or advertising it,) to suppose that a similar quantity might have been sold. With those of our advertisers and placarders, who are Gin-shop-keepers, the facilities for thus imposing on the Excise

Officers, are very great, as they are able to avail themselves of the interpretation, to which they are always open, of having disposed of some considerable quantity over their counters, without having been under the necessity of drawing any permit; a circumstance which would expose them to a greater risk of detection.

CAPE MADEIRA *and* CAPE SHERRY.

Singular as it may appear, that Wines, the better qualities of which are sufficiently indifferent, when in a genuine state, and of themselves, should be made a source of profitable imposition, through the medium of adulteration, it is not less the fact, that few Wines are deteriorated to a greater extent than the Cape Wines on which I am now treating. With regard to the distinction which is made in their denominations, those termed *Cape Sherries*, are selected more immediately from the Wines, which, in point of flavor, bear the greatest resemblance to real Sherry; the remainder constitutes what are usually entitled *Cape Madeiras*, and the adulterations of each are so qualified, as still to preserve the separate characters, which have been assigned them.

To lay down any particular plan of adulterating the generality of Cape White

Wines, is almost impossible, as with them, in most cases, are blended (as a means of conveying away, and turning to good account) whatever is useless or unsaleable of other Wines; a practice, which consequently, renders the quality somewhat dependent on circumstances. I will, however, give my Readers some idea of the usual mode of adulterating this Wine:—into a Cape vat containing any indefinite proportion of the Wine, is introduced the *drippings of the cocks from the various casks*:—*White Wines, of any description which may have been spoiled by having been put into bad or musty vessels, and the filterings of the lees of all the different Wines in the cellar*, after these ingredients have accumulated for a certain length of time, a few gallons of *Brandy* or *Rum Cowe*, and, occasionally, *Cyder*, are added: if, when tasted, the mixture is found of a quality too indifferent to be saleable, an additional proportion of the genuine Cape, immediately brings it up to the necessary standard:—If it be desirable to advertise a portion as *Cape Sherry*, the introduction (after such portion is racked into another vessel) of a small quantity of *Extract of Almond Cake*, produces the wished-for result;—if, to represent a very pale

Wine, a little *Lamb's Blood*, mixed in with the finings, at once enables the cheap seller to placard it, as '*delicately Pale Cape Sherry, or Madeira, at astonishingly low prices,*' &c. &c. The illustration thus afforded, of the value of Cape Wine, whether it be as an individual source of profit,—as an admirable basis on which to adulterate other and more expensive Wines,—or, as offering a ready and profitable mode, of getting rid of any thing, which an Advertising Dealer, may have on his premises, in the shape of Wine, &c. which is spoiled, or otherwise unsaleable, is so obvious, that I think it needs no further comment.

Having now opened the eyes of my Readers, to the adulterations of the major part of the Wines (exclusive of French,) for which such low prices are quoted by our placarders, &c. and sufficiently so, to enable any one to draw a pretty clear inference of the general nature of the practises of those gentlemen, I will just give a specimen of the means adopted, to deceive the Public, with *deteriorated Claret* and *fictitious Champagne*, showing, that even, the most costly Wines, are neither protected from the mischievous ingenuity of our cheap sellers, nor forgotten in their adulterating vocabulary.

Whether the importations of *Cape Burgundy*, *Cape Hermitage*, *Cape Hock*, *Cape Sauterne*,* &c. which frequently arrive in this country from the Cape of Good Hope, may constitute any basis, from the use of which, an extra profit is derived on the Wines, to which they are made to bear some slight resemblance, I shall not pretend to say; a view of the means employed to advertise *cheap Claret*, and more particularly *cheap Champagne*, will, I doubt not, fully answer the purposes of this Treatise with respect to French Wines.

CLARET.

The adulterations of this Wine,† as carried on, in the cellars of our placarders and

* ‘Red Hermitage must be managed in the same way as Claret, and the *White* likewise: except the colouring, which it does not require.

‘Burgundy should be managed in the same manner as Red Hermitage.’ Vide, *The Vintners’ and Licensed Victuallers’ Guide*, page 239.

† ‘To make Claret or Port Wine taste rougher. Put two quarts of Claret or Port, to a gallon of Sloes; bake them in a gentle oven till they become soft; then pour off the liquor, and squeeze out the rest. A pint of this will be sufficient for thirty or forty gallons.’

‘If Claret be faint, and has lost its colour, rack it into a fresh emptied hogshead, upon the lees of good Claret; then bung it up, putting the bung downwards for two or three

advertisers, may be summed up in few words; a small quantum of *Spanish Red Wine*, and a portion of *Rough Cyder*, (the latter, I am informed, being an article not unfrequently applied in the making up of cheap Clarets abroad,) is introduced into a cask containing inferior Claret, a colour*

days, that the lees may run through it; after which lay it, bung up, till it be fine; and if the colour be not yet perfect, rack it off again into a hogshead, that has been newly run off, with the lees. Then take an ounce of Cochineal (beat in a mortar, and infused for some time in a bottle of Wine); shake it up, and put it into the hogshead, and the Wine, will by this method acquire both a good colour and body: or, take a pound of turnsole, and put it into a gallon or two of Wine; let it steep a day or two, and then put it into the hogshead; after which, lay the bung downwards for a night, and the next day roll it about; then lay it up, and it will have a perfect colour.

‘To improve Claret that drinks foul. Rack the Claret from the dregs on some fresh lees of its own kind, and then take a dozen of new Pippins, pare them, and take away the cores; put them into the hogshead, and if that is not sufficient, take a handful of the Oak of Jerusalem, and bruise it; put it into the Wine and stir it very well. This not only takes away the foulness, but also gives it an agreeable flavor.’ Vide, *The Vintners’ and Licenced Victuallers’ Guide*, page 288.

* ‘To colour Claret. Take as many as you please of Damascenes or Black Sloes, and stew them with some dark coloured Wine and as much Sugar, as will make it into a syrup. A pint of this will colour a hogshead of Claret. It is also suitable for Red Port Wines, and may be kept

being previously added to the *Cyder*, by means of *Berry-dye*, or *Tincture of Brazil Wood*, the difference in duty and cost price, and a little management in the apportioning what is used of the *Spanish Red Wine* and *Cyder*, at once enabling the cheap sellers, to reduce the prices on their placards to what scale soever they please. They have, besides, this circumstance in their favour, that, although they may occasionally advertise Clarets in the London Docks, on as low, or perhaps lower terms, with regard to price, than that which they manufacture, (the means of doing which it is also my intention to lay before my Readers,) the latter is much better, as possessing apparently greater body, less chance of turning sour, and being altogether of a more saleable nature, and though by no means approaching even to the middling qualities of genuine Claret, they are able to advertise it, as of an *exceedingly fine description*. Since the reduction of the duties, the avidity with which our English cheap sellers, have laid hold on any article

ready for use.' Vide, *The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide*, page 238.

of Wine that afforded them the least chance of imposing on the Public, has given rise to a most cordial co-operation on the part of several French Dealers in the same *honest* design, in order to facilitate the sale of manufactured French Wines, and which it is evident (from the bare-faced assurance with which they are puffed off, and from the want of caution against the serious effects of this coalition) has fully answered the purposes of both parties, particularly as the profits attached to this kind of business, (notwithstanding the prices are quoted at so low a rate,) it will be seen, are tolerably remunerating.

It will, no doubt, excite some surprise, when it is mentioned as a fact, which can be supported by the testimony of some of our first-rate importers and French Wine growers, that the cost to the manufacturers, of the inferior Clarets thus shipped, is not more (at the outside), than two sous per bottle; that the charge from them to our English cheap sellers, is at about ten or twelve sous per bottle; equivalent to 5s. or 6s. sterling per dozen; that the expenses of bottles, case, and freightage, do not exceed 4s. 6d. per dozen more; and the duty and

other charges, at the utmost calculation, 19s. per dozen. Thus, supposing a case of of this Wine to cost as follows:—

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| 3 dozen <i>prime</i> Claret, at 5s. 6d. . . . | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| Expense of bottles, case, freightage, &c. at 4s. 6d. | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| Duty on 3 dozen, and Landing Charges, &c. at 19s. | 2 | 17 | 0 |
| One 3 dozen Case of <i>prime</i> Claret, at 29s. per dozen, is | 4 | 7 | 0 |

The means by which they are enabled to advertise it at the low prices we see, and the extent of profit derived from this *reputable* branch of the cheap seller's business, may be at once estimated; whilst a short insight into the mode of its manufacture, will clearly prove that the French adulterators are by no means less deficient in the art of imposition,* (although their ef-

* That foreigners, so far from being deficient in the art of adulterating, may be termed the fathers of so creditable a practice, is proved in the following extract, from Dr. Hughson's London, page 94. 'Sir John Rainewell, mayor in 1426, having received information against the Lombard Merchants, that they were guilty of mal-practices in the adulteration of Wines, and finding, upon inquiry, that the charge was well founded, he ordered that the noxious compound, to the quantity of 150 butts, should be thrown into the kennel.'

forts are confined but to one or two articles of Wine), than their brethren, the English adulterators.

The Wine, (if it can be so called) which is now brought over to the London Docks, advertised at so cheap a rate, *and so conveniently situated for re-shipment to France*, should the Dealers be so unsuccessful as not to find people foolish enough to become purchasers, is, (as I have satisfactorily ascertained from the best authority, which will totally refute the silly assertions and borrowed explanations, made use of in our modern cheap Wine advertisements,) nothing more, than a compound of the refuse of various French Wines, thrown together, with a portion of French Cyder, which, though comparatively an expensive ingredient, is admirably adapted for the purpose of giving an appearance of body; to this is added, as some further qualification, a proportionate quantity of what is termed ‘third quality wine,’* a description, which,

* The class of Wine here referred to, as forming a component part of the mixture which is now shipped for *Claret* to this country by some of our Advertising Dealers, may in some measure be estimated from the manner in which the manufacture of it is performed in France. At the proper season of the year, when the grapes have arrived at ma-

in the districts where the Wines are made, was considered so utterly worthless, even as the most ordinary beverage amongst the lower classes, before our Placarding Dealers

turity, they are gathered, and deposited in large vats. The juice which is detached from them by their own pressure, and which runs into a vessel placed to receive it, constitutes the base of that which the Vintners term the '*first quality*,' and is carefully secured in separate utensils, the utmost attention being paid to its fermentation and subsequent treatment. After this vinous liquid has drained from the vat, till no more can be obtained, a number of men are employed in that vessel to tread out the grapes which have been deposited therein, which process is performed with the *naked feet*! and without even the slightest arrangement as to cleanliness—the necessity of a regard to which, may be better conceived than described, when it is considered that chief of the Wines are made in the south of France. The juice which is thus procured, produces that which is called the '*second quality Wine*,' and by one or two of our advertisers, (*with the degree of veracity so peculiar to their whole body*,) is now actually being recommended, under the glowing, but borrowed, title of '*Vin de Comét*.'*

The third quality, which is that made use of in manufac-

* The celebrated Comet Wines, as they are termed, were the produce of the vintage of the year 1811, when the great comet appeared. During the chief part of that year, the weather was remarkable for its excessive heat, and the Wines which were made at the same period would, it is supposed, in point of quality, surpass all that have since been procured. This circumstance of their having been of so superior a quality, connected with the fact, that the produce was comparatively small, (as generally proves to be the case in very fine vintages,) occasioned them to be quickly bought up by persons, who were by no means likely to re-dispose of them; and it admits of a doubt whether even in

provided so excellent a channel for its consumption in England, that the *sin* was frequently committed of *throwing large quantities of it away, to the great pecuniary loss of our advertisers, and the privation of the tastes of our consumers.* The composition thus described, after the requisite portion of coarse inferior Brandy, has been introduced, (to

turing the extremely cheap Wines, now shipped to England in such vast profusion, is derived by a *retreading* of the remains of the grapes, contained in the vat, with the *naked feet*, and by the occasional addition of large quantities of water, which, by washing the pulp of the fruit, becomes impregnated with some portion of vinosity. This liquid, after being fermented, and undergoing its proper treatment, forms the '*third quality Wine,*' and not only assists in manufacturing a commodity of French Wine, to sell at a very cheap rate in this country, but also offers itself to our advertisers in its genuine state, to afford them the means of giving their customers the choice of a Wine at rather a higher price, and as of a *superior* quality, should such be required in preference to the lower priced Claret, which, as I have described above, is made up of various materials, though now so *modestly* disposed of, by several of our Advertising Dealers, as genuine '*Vin de Bordeaux.*'

the cellars of the richest individuals, any quantity to speak of, now remains, of the Wine, so aptly distinguished by the appellation of '*Vin de Comet.*' One or two comets, however, have, I believe, made their appearance in the south of France, within the last three or four years, although *too small to be seen by the naked eye*; in this instance, therefore, we must not too readily impeach the veracity of the advertising gentlemen, as probably they may not mean to refer to a comet of so distant a date as that of 1811.

prevent it turning sour,) and the whole of the mixture has been properly coloured and flavoured by a preparation, which, from the acknowledged ingenuity of French Chemists, must be considered in both respects, *elegant in the extreme*, is ready to be racked into casks, or drawn off into bottles, and to be shipped to this country, accompanied with all the instructions, &c. necessary to render the advertisements and placards, respecting it, sufficiently attractive. Let my Readers make a few inquiries as I have done, of individuals who must be intimately acquainted with the growth and manufacture of French Wines, and on whose veracity they can depend, and they will find, that I have neither made any exaggerated, or incorrect statement, of the prices at which this *excellent quality* of Claret is to be purchased, nor of the component parts and nature of its composition; but, on the contrary, that I have forborne enlarging on some facts, too disgusting to appear on paper.

CHAMPAGNE.

With this costly description of Wine, as with several of the foreign Wines on which I have already remarked, one of

the frauds committed on the Public through the attraction of cheap prices, is, by substituting another article for it, (the cost of which is very considerably lower,) and disposing of such, as the real Wine.

Gooseberry Wine (which, though genuine in itself, and bearing, in some respects, a slight resemblance, yet by no means to be compared, either in cost or actual quality, to the real and genuine Champagne,) is usually employed as the substitute. But, as this may be said to form the chief imposition, with regard to the vending of cheap sparkling Champagne, *from the premises of the Dealer*, my principal object, in the first place, will be to explain the manner in which this Gooseberry Wine is admitted into the stocks, even of our largest advertising and placarding concerns, and sold from thence as *genuine sparkling Champagne*. Afterwards I shall proceed to expose the admirable basis from which the Sillery and Still, together with the sparkling Champagnes, are puffed off to so great an advantage, as being in the London Docks. It is no very difficult matter to suppose that many of my Readers would have no objection, occasionally, to drink Gooseberry Wine, when that Wine is really fine

and of good quality; yet, very few, I imagine, would quietly submit to pay treble its value, because sold under the title and form of cheap Champagne. The disclosures, therefore, which I am about to make with respect to it, will, I trust, prove amusing, if not serviceable, to those who have hitherto so easily suffered the money to be taken out of their pockets, only to fill those of the advertiser of cheap Wine. It is well known as a fact, to many in the trade, that, at this time, large parcels of Champagnes are lying in the docks, in the names of certain individuals in London, which, as Champagnes, or in their present state, can never be drank, and the intention with which such Wines (which in France must have cost a mere trifle), have been sent to this country, cannot be mistaken.

To illustrate, however, the object I have in view, with respect to the tricks practiced with this Wine, (and of which I shall give an Example on a small scale, for the sake of conciseness,) let it be supposed that I order in France, six dozens of the poorest Champagne I can procure, and just of sufficient quality to allow it to be admitted into this country, under the name it bears. This I should be able to purchase at the

rate of about twelve francs, or 10s. per dozen, (not at all the lowest price,) the bottles, case, and freightage, might stand me in about 4s. 6d. or 5s. 6d. per dozen, and the landing charges and duty, 19s. per dozen more. On getting it home, I immediately draw the corks, and empty the bottles of their contents into my *Cape vat*, and supply their places with others, ready filled with the best Gooseberry Wine, the corks of which, are cemented and marked at the ends to resemble *real* Champagne, and which stands me (with every expense included) in about 21s. per dozen.

Now, as *I have the dock permit to protect it*, and I do not attempt to substitute this fictitious Wine, except between the period on which my Excise Officer last surveyed me, and the time of his coming again, nor start the unsaleable Champagne until I have sent out sufficient of my Cape without permit, or used enough in any of my foreign Wines, to admit it, so as not to cause any increase, I am under little danger of being discovered. This, the more particularly, as for every quantity, not exceeding one dozen, that I send from my premises, of real Champagne, (which is sold as of a very superior quality, and at a higher price,)

and for which quantity no permit is required, I am enabled to receive into my stock, in the same manner, (with regard to its being unpermitted), a like number of bottles of this fictitious Wine, to all outward appearance similar to that which is genuine, and *without having any larger proportion in stock than I have credit for, or the trouble and additional expense* (except where a large order is to be executed) *of clearing home my bad Champagne.*

Thus, should I be enabled, frequently, to derive most enormous profits, because, as the quantities which I send out of a dozen, half dozen, &c. of my cheap Champagne (and in which quantities it is more generally purchased), are of course the Gooseberry Wine, which I have got into my warehouse, without having subjected myself to the extra expense of the duty, freight, and cost, &c. of the indifferent Wine which I have in the docks, the counterfeit Champagne, therefore, stands me only in 21s. per dozen, (which is the total cost of the Gooseberry Wine) and leaves me in possession of a profit of 42s. per dozen, that being the difference between the cost price of 21s. per dozen and one of those at which it is advertised, viz. 63s. per

dozen. The lowest price of the middling and drinkable quality of Champagnes, in the London Docks, and of the next class to that used for the purpose I have just mentioned, is about 13 guineas per case of six dozens, which, with the duty and other charges, amounting to 19s. per dozen more, renders the total cost of it, at 64s. 3d. per dozen. How they can, therefore, advertise a Wine, as the primest Champagne, at 60s.; 63s.; and 65s. per dozen, the following Example, which applies to any quantity, however large, though confined to six dozens, for the sake of conciseness, will clearly elucidate:—

EXAMPLE.

| | Francs. s. d | £. s. d. |
|---|------------------|---------------------|
| 6 doz. of Champagne, in- different quality . at 12 or 10. 0 per doz. | 3. 0. 0 | |
| Expense of Bottles, Case, and Freightage of do. say at 5. 6 | ----- | 1. 13. 0 |
| Duty on ditto, and Land- ing charges . . . | -- 19. 0 | ----- 5. 14. 0 |
| Deduct 6 doz. of Cape, supposed to be made by this 6 doz. of bad Champagne being put into the Cape Vat . | -- 12. 0 | ----- 3. 12. 0 |
| Add the charge of 6 doz. of the best Goose- berry Wine, to supply the place of the bad Champagne which has been mixed with the Cape | -- 21. 0 | ----- 6. 6. 0 |
| | | 13. 1. 0 |
| | | 20 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 6 doz.) 261 (43. 6. |
| | | 24 per doz. |
| | | ----- |
| | | 31 |
| | | 18 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 3 |
| | | 12 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 6) 36 (6 |
| | | 36 |
| | | ----- |

6 dozens of Champagne, at 43s. 6d. is 13l. 1s.

Thus, shall I have introduced six dozens of fictitious Wine, protected by the same dock permit which accompanied the indifferent Champagne from the docks, and which places me beyond all liability of detection from any Excise Officer. The Wine is sparkling, and, to the generality of its consumers, appears to possess all the requisite character of real Champagne; and, aided by that eager confidence which is placed on the truth of the assertions contained in my captivating placards and advertisements, I am able to dispose of this substituted and fictitious article, the total cost of which, at the outside, is no more than 43s. 6d. per dozen, at a cash profit of 16s. 6d. if I advertise it at 60s. or if at 63s. per dozen, the *small* remuneration of only 19s. 6d. per dozen.

The dangerous nature and tendency of the Wine, which is occasionally puffed off to so much advantage, by the aid of Extracts from Theoretical Treatises on Wine, the introduction of a little of the jargon of the numerous French agents, who are constantly dunning the trade with their professional disquisitions, and the never failing attraction of cheap prices, require only to be generally known, to put a decided

stop to a system, which conceals as great a portion of fraud and imposition, as exists in almost any other branch of the adulterators' business, particularly as from the circumstance of the Wine being in the London Docks, a greater reliance is placed on its genuineness, and the appearance of deception is more easily glossed over.

The whole of the cheap Champagne made up in France, but more immediately *cheap still* Champagne, may be said to be of a kind, which, from the nature of its composition, is, perhaps, more highly deleterious to the health, than any other Wine whatever, excepting such cheap sparkling Champagnes, as are made up on the same plan, with regard to some of the materials which are used in their manufacture.

It has been remarked by French physicians, as they have occasionally been called in to attend English patients, that in most cases, the indisposition of our countrymen, when they are in France, can be ascribed, only to the Champagne which they drink, and which, owing to the avidity with which the English people indulge themselves in its consumption, is not only more frequently, than otherwise, supplied to

them of an indifferent kind, but of a sort, possessing properties which have the most pernicious and injurious tendency, possible, to the constitution. A little examination into the nature of some of the ingredients, employed in the manufacture of the cheap still, and sparkling Champagnes, in France, will fully prove the truth of their observations.

The properties of Lead,* in refining some particular descriptions of Wines, the vinous quality of which, as compared with that of others, is widely different, (and among which, these inferior Champagnes may be ranked,) for rendering bright such as have turned foul or ropy, or for preventing the increase of any ascendent quality which a Wine may have acquired, has been so frequently noticed in previous publications, that, perhaps, any lengthened discussion of its merits may be deemed superfluous. In Accum's Culinary Poisons,

* Gypsum, or Alabaster, is used to clear cloudy White Wines; as also fresh slaked Lime; and the size of a Walnut of Sugar of Lead, with a table spoonful of Sal-Enixum, is put to forty gallons of muddy Wine, to clear it; and hence, as the Sugar of Lead is decomposed, and changed into an insoluble sulphate of Lead, which falls to the bottom, the practice is *not quite* so dangerous as has been represented.' Vide, *The Vintners' and Licenced Victuallers' Guide*, page 225.

(page 95) this article is mentioned; he says, 'The most dangerous adulteration of Wine, is by some preparation of Lead, which possesses the property of stopping the progress of ascension of Wine, and also of rendering White Wine, when muddy, transparent; I have good reason to state that Lead is certainly employed for this purpose; the effect is very rapid, and there appears to be no other method known of *rapidly recovering ropy Wines*. Lead, in whatever state it be taken into the stomach, occasions terrible diseases; and Wine, adulterated with the minutest quantity of it, becomes a slow poison.' In Watson's Chemical Essays, (vol. 8, page 369,) it is stated, 'That a method of adulterating Wine, with Lead, existed at one time, so generally, in Paris, as to have become quite a common practice.' In Medical Essays, (vol. 2, page 80,) the consequence of the use of this ingredient is related, in the case of thirty-two persons, having severally become ill, after drinking White Wine, which had been adulterated with Lead, and, also, that one of them became paralytic, and another died. In Grahame's Treatise on Wine Making, (page 31,) and in the Vintners' Guide (4th edition, 1770,

page 67,) the uses and modes of its application are fully detailed.

It has been only since the duties have been lowered, that the cheap trash of Wines of all descriptions, which we now see advertised to so great an extent, has been imported; nor has it been till since the demands of our London Adulterators have been so great, (owing to the competition amongst them for any novelty in the article of Wine, calculated, in a cheap form, to aid them in carrying on their system of imposition against the Revenue and the Public, until their own pockets are filled, and their customers satiated,) that the vast quantities of sparkling, and other Champagnes, which are annually spoiled in France, from their turning vapid and ropy, have been found to constitute a *valuable* basis, on which may be re-manufactured an article exactly suited to the closest views of this *most worthy* class of people. How far a composition made up, by adding to these spoiled Wines a portion of the low Wines, from the indifferent vineyards, or of the 'third quality Wine,' which I have described in my remarks on Claret, (the whole undergoing a fresh fermentation, and receiving the action of some strong chemical

agent, in order to destroy the vapidness, precipitate the ropiness, and give to the whole a face,) may be estimated as a Wine, evidently depends only upon the skill of the advertiser, in rendering his advertisements attractive, as this process comprises the manufacture of the article of Champagne, alluded to, as that which is offered to the Public at so cheap a rate. That no great art is required to make this mixture bear a resemblance to still Champagne, must be pretty obvious, and I doubt not from the following more particular review, of the manner, in which the operations, I have just partially described, are carried on in France, an inference quite as clear will be drawn of the ease, with which *sparkling* Champagne is revived out of that, which had been considered useless and unwholesome.

The whole of the vapid, ropy Wines, and such as in any other way may have become spoiled, are specially collected together for the purpose, by the Wine Factor, and after selecting from them, those which, from their condition, are capable of being re-converted into saleable sparkling Champagne, they are thrown into separate reservoirs. A portion of '*third quality Wine*,' of

each kind, and of the last vintage, is then added to refresh them ; a partial re-fermentation is occasioned in that which is intended to represent the *prime* still Champagne, which renders it of a dryer character, and destroys any latent tendency to retain fixed air, and the application, to both, of strong chemical agents, in order to refine, and reduce them to a fit state for bottling, at once finishes the manufacture of these delectable mixtures.

That one of the chemical agents, which is used, if not most carefully applied, must be highly deleterious, I am satisfied of, from my being already acquainted with two instances, in which some persons were made ill, and the cheap Champagne they had been drinking, found, on analyzation, to contain a portion of Lead, in its worst form ; and were the cases, which must frequently, in a greater or less degree, occur, to be made Public, by the sufferers themselves, a most beneficial result would, probably, ensue to the community at large.

The prices paid to the Frenchmen, for these two descriptions of *prime* Champagne, is at the rate of about eighteen francs, or 15s. per dozen, the cost of the bottles, case, and freightage, at about 5s. 6d.

and the duty, and landing charges, 19s. per dozen more, making a total cost of only 39s. 6d. per dozen. The profits, I leave my Readers to estimate.

Before, however, I conclude this Treatise, and in order to leave no part of the ground unturned, it may, perhaps, be necessary to render some general account of the method, by which several of our Advertising Dealers are able to placard up other *cheap* Wines, in dock, because it is a scheme which conceals an additional imposture, with which it is expedient that every one should be made acquainted. Many people imagine that, by purchasing Wines in the docks, (no matter of whom, so long as they are in the docks, where there is no opportunity for adulteration,) they must necessarily be of good quality. This is by no means the case, and I firmly believe, that several persons have found it so to their cost; because, it often happens with the description of Wines for which such low prices are quoted, that the quality, even of that which is made up, and manufactured of spurious ingredients at home, is superior in body and taste.

At the time the last reduction in the duties took place, some hundreds of pipes of Wine, lying in the London Docks, and

never considered of value sufficient, to pay the then rate of duty, viz. 54*l.* per pipe, were immediately bought up by interested individuals, for a purpose by no means difficult to understand. The characters of some of these Wines, were such, as to hold out the presumption, that if they were moved, and the lees disturbed in them, their transit to something of the nature of vinegar, would be extremely rapid; others consisted of nothing more than a compound of thin meagre flavorless Wine, with a large portion of bad Brandy, the whole, however, to be purchased for a very few pounds, and of parties glad to get rid of them on any terms. Lately, and only since the disturbances have taken place in Portugal, a vast quantity* of Figuera and other inferior Wines have been smuggled into Oporto, for exportation to England, although, to prevent the illicit traffic, which this is considered to be, by the Portuguese Government, the utmost power had been vested in the hands of the Royal Oporto Wine Company, and, from the measures adopted by it, the purpose had always been fully ef-

* The total number of pipes of these Figuera Wines, which have been smuggled into Oporto, as described in some accounts, is said to exceed 4000.

fect, until the period when the unsettled state of the country almost threatened the demolition of Oporto, and suspended the jurisdiction, of a great part of its authorities. The principal portion of these Figuera Wines, which were then, with some degree of security, purloined into Oporto, and its immediate neighbourhood, have since been shipped to this country, under Oporto bills of lading; and, by means of the quibble which is afforded by such document, they are now offered, by dishonest English *Dock Wine Merchants*,* and others, (of whom the advertisers form the majority,) as genuine Port Wines, although known by them to be what they really are. The total cost of these Figuera Wines, including the duty, does not exceed 45*l.* per pipe, and the admirable use to which they can be applied, independently of the assistance they afford in manufacturing fictitious Port Wine, in stock, will presently be seen.

A practice similar to the one just described, is also carried on with respect to cheap Sherry. The Malaga Wines, which are the production of a place, bearing the same name, and situated some degrees to the east of Cadiz, and the districts where the

* The particulars relative to this class of Dealers will be found in pages 154 to 163.

real Sherries are grown, by a little management on the part of some of our Spanish Merchants, have been, and still are, shipped in no inconsiderable quantities to this country, under Cadiz bills of lading, as if (as far as their article is concerned), their efforts to impose on the British Public, through the medium of our advertisers, should be out-rivalled by none.

The objects to which the whole of these *precious* Wines are, and have been, applied, by our Advertising Dealers, are two-fold, the first as cheap articles, to combine with others in their large Wine vats, the second, to act as *decoy ducks*. Since the law, with regard to quarter casks has been brought into operation, by a representation to the London Dock Company, leave can be obtained, to rack in the docks, either one hogshead, into two quarter casks, or, one pipe, into two hogsheads, which, therefore, if they please, enables our cheap sellers to offer the same enticement to different classes of buyers. It should, however, be observed, that as *decoy ducks* alone, and not for purposes of sale, a great portion of these wretched Wines is intended, because, if the advertiser could even prevail on his customers to become purchasers, he would be at the loss of two great advantages, the

first, that of having their assistance in manufacturing his vat Wine, and secondly, their possession as a means of continuing a temptation, for the Public to enter his receptacle.

A person applies to a Wholesale Dealer, or a Gin-shop-keeper, who has a Wholesale Licence in addition to his Retail one, and who may have a placard up, announcing cheap Wines to be sold in dock, and requests an order to taste them. The seller manages to provide him also, with an order, or two, for some other Wines, a little higher in price, the consequence is, the purchaser tastes the whole, finds a material difference, calls again on the seller, and is either persuaded to take a cask of that, at the advanced price, or else, to be supplied out of one of the large *Wine vats*, on the same terms as stated for the lowest quality of those in dock, being assured that it is a similar description of Wine, only *improved so much*, by lying in so great a body.

Thus, we see that whether the operations of our placarders and advertisers, be confined to the art of adulteration,—to the tact of displaying in their advertisements to the greatest advantage, the superior qualifications, they so modestly claim to themselves,

above all other Dealers, in the knowledge and mode of purchasing, and disposing of Wines and Spirits,—in deceiving the Public with pompous offers, (the conditions of which, are so framed, that only one point of law is given to their customers, whilst the sum of the remaining nine, viz. possession of the cash, is retained by themselves), or in conducting any minor impositions, in the sale of their goods, the most consummate address is displayed.

The base and fraudulent adulterations of Wines and Spirits, and the able and effective manner in which they are puffed off by placard and advertisement, are, however, charged with mischiefs, which reach in their operation, to a further extent, than might, perhaps, at first sight, be imagined. The injurious tendency which all adulterated articles have, in the constitutions of the people — the temptation and encouragement which is afforded, by the success with which adulterating practices may be carried into execution, for the adoption of a system so well calculated to plunder the Public with impunity—and the extensive frauds on the Government which all doings of an illicit nature are the agents for committing, are but a part of the many evils at present sustained by

their toleration. The various other important interests which the practices described tend to injure, and the more minute ramifications to which their baneful influence extends, would be found alone to constitute reasons sufficiently urgent to demand that some check should be put to their further existence. Amongst those, whose interests are materially affected, may be reckoned the fair and honest Wine Merchant, since the encouragement which is given to the advertisers, by a certain portion of the people, tends, in effect, to deprive him of that bread which ought to belong only to *honest* industry; whilst on the other hand, by those who prudently doubt the integrity of the advertisers, he is indirectly made subject to an imputation, which applies to none but to the puffing dealers, and to them alone. It unfortunately happens, in the minds of many persons, that the apprehensions of being made victims to the fraudulent adulterations of Wines, &c. induce them to implicate in similar transactions, not only the advertising individuals, who do, and must of an evident necessity engage in them, but those also, who have always supported the characters of honourable and upright Tradesmen, and whose interest,

and subsistence, depend on means diametrically opposite to such as are of a deceptive or dishonest nature. To avoid therefore, as is conceived, the possibility of being imposed upon, persons render themselves a prey to another class of Dealers, not a whit less dishonest in their views and intentions toward a customer, than are the body, whom the present work is intended to expose. Belonging to the class, to which I now allude, are chief of the *Foreign Wine Agents*, or *Commission Men*, as they are more properly termed, and not a few of that description of Wine Merchants whose interests are supposed to be exclusively confined to what is termed dock business, or to the supplying of the trade, although from the exceptions, which the parties here referred to, form in so respectable a community, it would be more proper to distinguish them by the appellation of *Wine Hawkers*. The first-mentioned, viz. the Commission Men, (who are somewhat of an ephemeral description,) are such as arrive in this country, at stated periods, to dispose of Wines in which they have some personal interest, together with such individuals as are engaged on commission, to undertake the sale of all Wines

(of qualities however indiscriminate,) which are placed in their hands by the merchants who choose to employ them. Amongst these, (besides Clerks from the establishments of the Growers abroad,) are included Bankrupt Tradesmen, turned-off Clerks, and various other individuals of different grades, who, catching at any chance, willingly occupy themselves in the sale of all such Wines, as from their doubtful quality, other and more responsible persons have previously been unable to get rid of. These, together with the Clerks (for they may not be omitted,) who belong to such Dock Wine Merchants as come under the designation of Wine Hawkers, generally ply at the London Docks, a mart which has now become notorious for the resemblance which it bears to Rag Fair, or Broker Row, Moorfields. On these occasions it is chiefly, that the grand prizes are obtained, for, seizing opportunities when private gentlemen (of whom they seem to have a sort of instinctive knowledge,) are disengaged, or perhaps waiting for the Merchants of whom they intend to purchase, they seldom fail in some way or other, either by the apparent cheapness of the article which they offer for sale, or by wilful misrepresentation, to

inflict the grossest deception on the purchaser—a deception which nearly rivals the most successful attempts of the advertisers and placarders. For the quality of the Wines also, which the class of persons, now alluded to, dispose of, they can by no means be considered to be responsible; the very circumstance of their acting *only* as agents, precluding the possibility of appeal or redress; whilst, on the other hand, the nature of their engagement obliges them to effect a sale, without the slightest reserve, of all the goods which are placed at their command, no matter of how indifferent a quality they prove to be. This, coupled with the fact of their being employed chiefly for the disposal of what are termed ‘Truck Wines,’* and by such Merchants as have never been able to establish themselves, by the excellence of their commodity, occasions almost as great an evil, both to the consumer and respectable Dealer, as do even the practices of the advertisers and placarders of cheap Wines, &c.

* ‘Truck Wines’—Wines which are received in *barter* for such linen and other goods, as are unsaleable in this country, or (as may be more aptly defined,) the commodity employed in the ‘Diamond cut Diamond’ Trade.

Respecting the *Dock Wine Merchants* who may be considered to come under the denomination of '*Wine Hawkers*,' as will presently be seen, the private gentleman, in confining his dealings to them, under the idea of being served with a better article, or at a cheaper rate, renders himself as much the object of profitable imposition, as he would do, even if he applied to the most questionable source. Amongst the deceptions practised by this class of Dealers, may be reckoned, the delivering a less quantity of Wine than is charged for in the invoice—the disposing of a Wine with a false description of its being of some particularly fine and noted vintage—the sending another Wine, of an inferior quality, as the one which had been tasted and sold—together with a variety of other peculations, which become the more highly dishonourable, in proportion as the station and wealth of the parties ought to place them above transactions of such a nature. To prove the facts which I now advance, (without descending to certain anecdotes current in the Trade), I could quote several legal proceedings, where exemplary verdicts have been obtained, both for short measure and other

dishonest doings, were it not, that such a course would make the object of the present statement, appear to be the effort of an invidious disposition toward particular individuals, rather than the result of an honest wish to guard the Public against fraud and imposition.* It will, perhaps, be sufficient if I demonstrate from what cause, the private gentleman is so liable to be badly served when applying to *Dock Wine Merchants*, and explain also the subterfuge by which many of them evade the consequence, and prevent the destruction of their credit, in his estimation. The class of persons on whom the *Dock Wine Merchants* principally depend for custom and for livelihood, are such as belong to the trade, and who are Dealers in the article. These, in making purchases, have the picking of the different parcels of Wine, and, of course, as competent judges, take care to select

* Should it hereafter appear, that any doubt has been attempted to be thrown on the truth of this statement, or it shall have been thought that I cannot prove as fact, that which I have here asserted, I shall feel bound, in a future edition, to place before my Readers a few such abstracts of certain law proceedings, which have taken place at different periods, and against particular individuals of the class above mentioned, as shall be quite sufficient to convince the most incredulous.

from each parcel, those only which possess the finest quality; the terms of the bargain materially affecting the interests of the seller, in the price obtained, when the buyer undertakes to purchase the whole or part of a parcel as it runs. To become a good judge of Wine in its proper sense, requires much longer experience than many persons suppose; because, when in the wood, it is not that one Wine tastes more pleasantly than another, which decides it to be the better of the two, or, that that, which has every appearance, to a common observer, of being likely to turn out well, proves to do so. There are minute properties to be distinguished, and qualities to be discovered, which only the palate and eye of an individual who is thoroughly practised, can discern. The condition of a Wine—whether it be quiescent or in a state of fermentation—the presence of bad Brandy—the appearance of too large a quantity of Brandy—the flavor and aroma most likely to render a Wine acceptable after it shall have been some time in bottle—the existence of any disagreeable property—the probability that a Wine will continue bright after it is bottled, &c. are all points which can only

be decided by the truly practical Wine Merchant. In the selections, therefore, which are made by the Dealers, those Wines which possess one or more of the bad qualities amongst those described, (and it is very rare that there are not several pipes so possessed in a parcel of twenty or thirty,) are carefully excluded, and consequently left for the choice of private customers, who are totally unqualified to make the necessary distinctions. The extent of this unfavourable reservation will be better estimated, when it is affirmed, that not unfrequently, (when Wines of this description have so accumulated as to amount to a considerable number) certain Gin-shop-keepers are employed to dispose of them, on terms of agreement, rendered sufficiently profitable to answer their purpose :—Vaults are taken—the objectionable Wines cleared from the docks, and bottled—some private arrangement made between the Wine Hawker and the Gin-shop-keeper, by which the name of the former, and the real object of the concern are concealed from view, and the Wines, probably those which have been left on hand from the selections of private individuals, (and which selections have been made from the refuse of the Dealers,)

are thus trafficked forth to the public through another channel, which but increases, in a still greater proportion, the mischievous effects of imposition. If any complaint be made by the private gentleman, of the quality of the Wine which he may have purchased in the docks, of the Wine Hawker, (*providing the high character of the house, the extensive range of compting-houses, and the numerous clerks employed,* be insufficient of themselves, to deter him from so far doubting the *strict honour* of the proprietor as to make a complaint,) the fault is instantly laid to the mismanagement of the Wine Cooper. If the Wine cannot be rendered perfectly bright, on account of its being what is termed scuddy, or any unpleasant flavor happens to be discovered in it, either circumstance is attributed, to the improper finings which have been made use of. If the Wine, after it has been bottled some little time, turns foul, (although more likely to arise from some latent fermenting principle remaining in the Wine, owing to its having originally been badly racked,) it is stated to proceed from dirty bottles, inferior corks, or other fault in the conduct of the person who had been employed to manage the Wine, which

seldom fails to inflict on him (what in justice ought only to be rendered to the seller of the Wine), the loss of his credit as a Tradesman, and its consequent result, the loss of a customer. Such are the facts which I have thought proper to introduce to my Readers, with respect to the Wine Hawkers, both because the object and purposes of this Treatise are better fulfilled by doing so ; and to omit any party on account of their apparently great respectability, when they do not deserve it, would be rendering an injustice to others whose practices, although perhaps far more injurious, have also been subjected to the ordeal of exposure. Of the body of Wine Merchants, of whom these Wine Hawkers form only a part, it would be difficult to speak in terms of too great praise : because they confine themselves strictly to the source from whence they obtain their wealth and respectability, and they scorn to descend to the low and dirty practice, of making the private gentlemen the medium through which they are to be repaid, by imposition, for their less profitable transactions. Their objectionable Wines are sold at prices commensurate with their quality, to those persons who choose to dispose of cheap goods, and

the party purchasing is offered no arrangement to *assist* in their disposal, nor is any inducement held out, to become a buyer, other than the article itself at its mere value. To these facts I beg to call the attention of private gentlemen, who have been prevailed upon to place themselves in the hands of *Commission Men* and *Dock Wine Merchants*,*

* All Commission Men and Dock Wine Merchants, who do not keep entered premises for the reception of Wines and Spirits, and consequently not rendered subject to the survey of Excise Officers, are not compelled to take out any licence, although they are Dealers in the strictest sense of the word, being permitted, by a recent act, to import into this country and sell from the docks, quantities as small as they please, either of Wines or Spirits. How far this circumstance must be injurious to Government, when the immense number of persons who are engaged in this sort of traffic is considered, I leave to those whose duty it is to look to things of this nature. But how far such a permission, on the part of the Government, is unjust and injurious to the licenced traders of this country, will be estimated, when it is stated, that the greater portion of the persons now engaged in bringing over bottled Wines and Spirits, to be disposed of in small quantities, are foreigners, who pay no scot and lot, no licences, no taxes, and who stay no longer in this country than is requisite to sell the whole of their Wines, and they want a fresh supply. It is notorious, also, that at the time, the order, under the Act of Parliament, was received by the Excise, directing them to permit Wines and Spirits to be imported in the smallest quantities, some of these foreigners* were actually pe-

* The Spaniards, the consumption of whose Wines has so greatly increased within the last few years.

with the conviction, that in many instances, they will find, on consideration, they themselves have been imposed upon, and deceived in the commodity they had been persuaded to purchase, and that, in all probability, they too, have been induced by the Wine Hawker, or Commission Man to whom they became customers, to ascribe the cause to an innocent individual. To these gentlemen at least, I trust the foregoing remarks will prove acceptable, and serve to demonstrate to them, that the concerns which best deserve their support, are those, in which the proprietors, depending chiefly on private custom for subsistence, and

titioning their own Government to prohibit the importation into their country, of casks *to be refilled*, which had originally been exported by themselves into this, in order that they might thereby have the privilege of making and charging us with new casks, at every fresh shipment of Wine. If Foreigners are to be thus encouraged at the expense of the Tradesmen of this country,—if they are to be allowed to supersede every description of Wine Merchant, from the highest class to the lowest, by being permitted to bring over Wines and Spirits in bottles,—to dispose of them in quantities as small as a single dozen,—and to do so without even being subjected to licences, or the same rates and taxes—it would be a shrewd question to ask—if our Wine Merchants are to be so superseded, what is to become of our numerous Bottle Merchants, Cork Cutters, and others, whose interests are equally involved?

on no system of newspaper notoriety to sustain their characters as Tradesmen, have, obviously, their own interests too much at stake, to supply inferior or adulterated Wines, in lieu of such, as from their quality, are calculated to obtain and preserve connexion.

To point out, as has been suggested, any efficient tests whereby bad or adulterated Wines and Spirits may be detected, is next to an impossibility, because in the fraudulent combinations which take place, those articles bear the largest proportions, which, although different in quality and value, possess the same chemical properties, as do the Wines or Spirits with which they are compounded, and from the comparatively small proportions of vegetable poisons, which are intermixed, it is only by the injurious effects which are imperceptibly received by the constitution, that even they can be discovered to have existed in the spurious compositions which have been drank as Wine or Spirits—a circumstance which cannot be sufficiently lamented, since the evil can only be detected when too late to be of much avail. In other cases also, where foreign agents are employed for the purposes of adulteration, (with the exception of mineral poisons, such as Lead, or

pungent vegetable nostrums, such as Extract of Capsicums, &c.) no test whatever can be successfully applied;—nor, unfortunately, can any certain means be adopted for determining the fact of their existence in a spurious compound, although that compound shall have received their aid. I might, however, even go further, and state, that, where the most poisonous substances form component parts of the mixtures which are vended under the denomination of cheap Wines and Spirits, the article to be drank, must be *deadly* indeed, if any very precise or accurate result could be obtained from the quantity which would be submitted to trial. The delicate nature of many of the tests—the necessity of their being applied by some experienced chemist—the want of proper apparatus, &c. of themselves form sufficient obstacles, to prevent persons in general becoming acquainted with any certainty of the existence of the poisonous adulterations.

It is, alas! only by the injurious tendency which adulterated articles have in the constitutions of the people, and the lingering effects which they entail, that facts so vital and important are to be truly and accurately ascertained. In order, how-

ever, to afford my Readers every information relative to an end so desirable, as detection by some certain process, I have thought it best (although I do not vouch for their accuracy from my own experience,) to introduce several tests, which will, it is said, discover the different spurious articles, for the detection of which, they are to be applied.

TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF EXTRACT
OF CAPSICUMS, AND EXTRACT OF
GRAINS OF PARADISE.

Take of the suspected Gin, or Brandy, or Rum, as the case may be, about a quart, pour it into a retort, or small still, and boil it gently, until the whole of the spirituous part is evaporated ; the residuum, if Capsicums, or Grains of Paradise have been employed, will still retain a hot pungent flavor.

METHOD OF DETECTING THE ADULTERATIONS
OF BRANDY, RUM, AND MALT
SPIRIT.

The false strength of Brandy or Rum is rendered obvious by diluting the suspected liquor with water ; the acrimony of the Capsicum, and Grains of Paradise, or Pepper, may then be readily discovered by the taste.

The adulteration of Brandy, with British Molasses, or Sugar-spirit, becomes evident by rubbing a portion of the suspected Brandy between the palms of the hands: the spirit, as it evaporates, leaves the disagreeable flavor which is peculiar to all British Spirits. Or the liquor may be deprived of its alcohol, by heating a portion in a spoon over a candle, till the vapour ceases to catch fire on the approach of a lighted taper. The residue thus obtained, of genuine French Brandy, possesses a vinous odour, still resembling the original flavor of the Brandy, whilst the residue, produced from sophisticated Brandy, has a peculiarly disagreeable smell, resembling Gin, or the breath of habitual drunkards.—*Accum.*

METHOD OF DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF LEAD IN SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

The presence of Lead may be detected in spirituous liquors, by the same means as stated with respect to Wine.

TEST FOR DETECTING THE DELETERIOUS ADULTERATIONS OF WINE.

A ready re-agent for detecting the presence of Lead, or any other deleterious

metal in Wine, is known by the name of the *Wine test*. It consists of water saturated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas, acidulated with muriatic acid. By adding one part of it to two of Wine, or any other liquid suspected to contain Lead, a dark coloured or black precipitate will fall down, which does not disappear by an addition of muriatic acid, and this precipitate, dried and fused before the blowpipe on a piece of charcoal, yields a globule of metallic Lead. This test does precipitate iron; the muriatic acid retains iron in solution when combined with sulphuretted hydrogen; and any acid in the Wine has no effect in precipitating any of the sulphur of the test liquor.

The Wine test sometimes employed is prepared in the following manner:—Mix equal parts of finely powdered sulphur and of slacked quick-lime, and expose it to a red heat for twenty minutes. To thirty-six grains of this sulphate of lime, add twenty-six grains of super-tartrate of potassa; put the mixture into an ounce bottle, and fill up the bottle with water that has been previously boiled, and suffered to cool. The liquor, after having been repeatedly shaken, and allowed to become clear, by the subsi-

dence of the undissolved matter, may then be poured into another phial, into which about twenty drops of muriatic acid have been previously put. It is then ready for use. This test, when mingled with Wine containing Lead or Copper, turns the Wine of a dark-brown or black colour. But the mere application of sulphuretted hydrogen gas to Wine, acidulated by muriatic acid, is a far more preferable mode of detecting Lead in Wine.'

TO DISCOVER LEAD DISSOLVED IN WINE.

'Boil together, in a pint of water, an ounce of quick lime, and half an ounce of flour of brimstone; and when the liquor, which will be of a yellow colour, is cold, pour it into a bottle, and cork it up for use. A few drops of this liquor being dropped into a glass of Wine, or Cyder, containing *Lead*, will change the whole into a colour more or less *brown*, according to the quantity of Lead which it contains. If the Wine be wholly free from Lead, it will be rendered turbid by the liquor, but the colour will be rather a dirty white than a black brown.' *Watson's Chemical Essays*, vol. 3, page 371.

By this test, however, iron is also pre-

precipitated when dissolved in Wine, and is apt to be taken for Lead; a circumstance which may happen accidentally. The following test is, therefore, preferable, as not liable to the same inconvenience.

‘Take equal parts of calcined oyster-shells and crude sulphur, in fine powder, and put them in a crucible, which put into a fire, and raise the heat suddenly, till it has been exposed to a white heat for fifteen minutes. Then take it out, let it cool, beat the ingredients to powder, and put them into a well-corked bottle. To prepare the test liquor, take twenty grains of this powder, together with one hundred and twenty grains of cream of tartar, and put them into a strong bottle, fill it with water, boil it for an hour, and let it cool. Cork the bottle immediately, and shake it from time to time. After some hours repose, decant off the clear liquor into an ounce phial, having first put twenty-two drops of muriatic acid into each phial. Cork these phials, accurately, with a little wax mixed up with a little turpentine. One part of this liquor, mixed with three parts of suspected Wine, will discover the presence of the smallest quantity of Lead or Copper, by a very sensible

black precipitate, and of arsenic, by an orange precipitate, but will have no effect on iron, if there be any; the presence of which, however, may be ascertained by adding a little potash, which will turn the liquor black if there be any iron. Pure Wine remains limpid after the addition of this liquor.' *Journal de Physique*, October, 1791.

METHOD OF DETECTING ALUM DISSOLVED IN WINE.

'Some years ago, the Academy of Lyons proposed the following prize question: What is the best method of ascertaining the presence and quantity of *Alum* dissolved in Wine, especially in very deep coloured Red Wine? The prize was gained by M. J. S. Beraud. From his experiment, it appears that a mixture of Lime-water, and Wine, in any proportion whatever, will, at the end of twelve or fifteen hours, furnish a quantity of crystals which may be separated by filtration, and that these crystals will be easiest discovered when the quantities of Wine and Lime-water are equal; but that Wine containing Alum dissolved in it, will not form crystals when mixed with Lime-water, but merely deposits a muddy sedi-

ment. To know, therefore, whether any Wine contains Alum or not, we have only to mix a small quantity of it with Lime-water: if crystals are formed, it contains no Alum; if not, it does. Again, if Wine contains Alum, the residuum that remains after filtration, will, as it dries, split into quadrilateral segments, which will detach themselves from the paper which contains them; but if the Wine contains no Alum, the residuum, after it is dry, will remain united and attached to the paper. If one measure of Wine and two-thirds of a measure of Lime-water deposit crystals, we are certain that if the Wine contains Alum, the proportion of that Alum to the Wine will be less than 1 to 1152; if, when equal parts of Wine and Lime-water are mixed, no crystals be deposited, we may be sure that more than $\frac{1}{400}$ th part of the mass of Wine, consists of Alum.' *Encyclopædia Britannica*, page 721.

METHOD OF DETECTING EXTRANEIOUS COLOURS IN RED WINE.

‘M. Vogel has lately recommended acetate of lead as a test for detecting extraneous colours in Red Wine. He remarks, that none of the substances that can be

employed for colouring Wine, such as the berries of the *Vaccinium Martillus* (bilberries), elderberries, and Campeachy wood, produce with genuine Red Wine, a greenish grey precipitate, which is the colour that is procured by this test by means of genuine Red Wines. Wine coloured with the juice of the bilberries, or elderberries, or Campeachy wood, produces, with acetate of lead, a deep blue precipitate; and Brazil-wood, red saunders, and the red beet, produce a colour which is precipitated red by acetate of lead. Wine coloured by beet root is also rendered colourless by lime water; but the weakest acid brings back the colour. As the colouring matter of Red Wines resides in the skin of the grape, M. Vogel prepared a quantity of skins, and reduced them to powder. In this state he found that they communicated to alcohol a deep red colour: a paper stained with this colour was rendered red by acids and green by alkalies.' *Accum.*

METHOD OF ASCERTAINING THE QUANTITY OF SPIRIT CONTAINED IN VARIOUS SORTS OF WINE.

‘The strength of all Wines depends upon the quantity of alcohol or Brandy which

they contain. Mr. Brande, and Gay Lussac, have proved, by very decisive experiments, that all Wines contain Brandy or alcohol ready formed. The following is the process discovered by Mr. Brande, for ascertaining the quantity of Spirit, or Brandy, contained in different sorts of Wine.

Experiment.

Add to eight parts, by measure, of the Wine to be examined, one part of a concentrated solution of sub-acetate of Lead: a dense insoluble precipitate will ensue; which is a combination of the test liquor with the colouring, extractive, and acid matter of the Wine. Shake the mixture for a few minutes, pour the whole upon a filtre, and collect the filtered fluid. It contains the Brandy or Spirit, and water of the Wine, together with a portion of the sub-acetate of Lead. Add, in small quantities at a time, to this fluid, warm, dry, and *pure* sub-carbonate of potash, (*not salt of tartar, or sub-carbonate of potash of commerce*), which has previously been freed from water by heat, till the last portion added remains undissolved. The Brandy or Spirit contained in the fluid will become

separated ; for the sub-carbonate of potash abstracts from it the whole of the water with which it was combined ; the Brandy or Spirit of Wine forming a distinct stratum, which floats upon the aqueous solution of the alkaline salt. If the experiment be made in a glass tube, from one half inch to two inches in diameter, and graduated into 100 equal parts, the *per centage* of Spirit, in a given quantity of Wine, may be read off by mere inspection. In this manner the strength of any Wine may be examined.*

* The following account of the per centage of alcohol† contained in various kinds of Wine and other fermented Liquors, is from Philosophical Transactions, 1811, p. 345 ; 1813, p. 87 ; and Journal of Science and the Arts, No. VIII. p. 290.

| Proportions of Spirit per cent. by measure. | | | Proportions of Spirit per cent. by measure. | | |
|---|---|-------|---|---|-------|
| Lissa | . | 26,47 | Madeira | . | 23,93 |
| Ditto | . | 24,35 | Ditto (Sercial) | . | 21,40 |
| Average | . | 25,41 | Ditto | . | 19,24 |
| Raisin Wine | . | 26,40 | Average | . | 22,27 |
| Ditto | . | 25,77 | Port | . | 25,83 |
| Ditto | . | 23,30 | Ditto | . | 24,29 |
| Average | . | 25,12 | Ditto | . | 23,71 |
| Marcella | . | 26,03 | Ditto | . | 23,39 |
| Ditto | . | 25,05 | Ditto | . | 22,30 |
| Average | . | 25,09 | Ditto | . | 21,40 |
| Madeira | . | 24,42 | Ditto | . | 19,96 |

† Of a specific gravity, 825.

In submitting, as I have done, the various facts relative to the adulterations of Wines and Spirits, to the notice, and for the benefit, of my Readers, it has by no means been

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| Average . . . | 22,96 | Average . . . | 15,10 |
| Sherry . . . | 19,81 | Malsmsley Madeira . . . | 16,40 |
| Ditto . . . | 19,83 | Lunel . . . | 15,52 |
| Ditto . . . | 18,79 | Sheraaz . . . | 15,52 |
| Ditto . . . | 18,25 | Syracuse . . . | 15,28 |
| Average . . . | 19,17 | Sauterne . . . | 14,22 |
| Teneriffe . . . | 19,79 | Burgundy . . . | 16,60 |
| Colares . . . | 19,75 | Ditto . . . | 15,22 |
| Lachryma Christi . . . | 19,70 | Ditto . . . | 14,53 |
| Constantia (White) . . . | 19,75 | Ditto . . . | 11,95 |
| Ditto (Red) . . . | 18,92 | Average . . . | 14,67 |
| Lisbon . . . | 18,94 | Hock . . . | 14,37 |
| Malaga (1666) . . . | 18,94 | Ditto . . . | 13,00 |
| Bucellas . . . | 18,49 | Ditto (old in cask). . . | 8,68 |
| Red Madeira . . . | 22,30 | Average . . . | 12,08 |
| Ditto . . . | 18,40 | Nice . . . | 14,62 |
| Average . . . | 20,35 | Barsac . . . | 13,86 |
| Cape Muschat . . . | 18,25 | Tent . . . | 13,30 |
| Cape Madeira . . . | 22,94 | Champagne (Still) . . . | 13,80 |
| Ditto . . . | 20,50 | Ditto (Sparkling) . . . | 12,80 |
| Ditto . . . | 18,11 | Ditto (Red) . . . | 12,56 |
| Average . . . | 20,51 | Ditto (ditto) . . . | 11,30 |
| Grape Wine . . . | 18,11 | Average . . . | 12,61 |
| Calcavella . . . | 19,21 | Red Hermitage . . . | 12,32 |
| Ditto . . . | 18,10 | Vin de Grave . . . | 13,94 |
| Average . . . | 18,65 | Ditto . . . | 12,80 |
| Vidonia . . . | 10,25 | Average . . . | 13,37 |
| Alba Flora . . . | 17,26 | Frontignac . . . | 12,79 |
| Malaga . . . | 17,26 | Cote Rotie . . . | 12,32 |
| Hermitage (White) . . . | 16,43 | Gooseberry Wine . . . | 11,84 |
| Roussillon . . . | 19,00 | Currant Wine . . . | 20,55 |
| Ditto . . . | 17,20 | Orange Wine aver. . . | 11,26 |
| Average . . . | 18,13 | Tokay . . . | 9,87 |
| Claret . . . | 17,11 | Elder Wine . . . | 9,87 |
| Ditto . . . | 16,32 | Cyder highest aver. . . | 9,87 |
| Ditto . . . | 14,08 | Ditto lowest ditto . . . | 5,21 |
| Ditto . . . | 12,91 | Perry average . . . | 7,26 |

my intention to implicate the *whole* of any class of Dealers for the delinquency of a part, nor that part, any further than supported by clear and distinct evidence. Such evidence I have afforded; nor can this, therefore, be said to apply to any Dealer, whether Retail and Wholesale, or Wholesale exclusively, who, although announcing the sale of Wines, yet, from his scale of prices, may fairly be allowed the supposition, that though, perhaps, not of the finest quality, they are at least unadulterated. Neither can it be permitted to refer to that class, known by the denomination of Publicans; individuals, who possess what are termed Brewers' houses, and than whom, (speaking of the majority,) no description of men, are so much oppressed and borne down; I may say, to a degree that would almost render the term of Brewers' slaves,* more applicable to them,

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|----------------------|-------|
| Mead . . . | 7,32 | Ditto Small Beer do. | 1,28 |
| Ale (Burton) . . | 8,88 | Brandy . . . | 53,39 |
| Ditto (Edinburgh) | 6,20 | Rum . . . | 53,68 |
| Ditto (Dorchester) | 5,50 | Gin . . . | 51,60 |
| Average . . . | 6,87 | Scotch Whiskey | 54,32 |
| Brown Stout . . | 6,80 | Irish ditto . . | 53,90 |
| London Porter aver. | 4,20 | | |

* A man, who has, perhaps, saved 400*l.* or 500*l.* is persuaded by one of the Brewers' myrmidons, specially em-

in their present state, than any other, and would almost justify it, on their part, if any thing can justify, the very mode of procedure, which I have been exposing to re-

ployed for the purpose, to take a house which is to be let, the value of a lease on which, he is informed, is about 2000*l*. Under the prospect of the great advantages represented to him, and the inducement that the Brewer will accommodate him, by advancing the requisite sum, besides what he can spare himself, to make up the purchase money, the man is prevailed upon to take it ; first of all, however, executing a deed of assignment of the lease, to be held by the Brewer, as security ; together with a bond in judgment, on the whole of his furniture, and other property, as another guarantee for a large additional sum, for which the man has received no value, but which is considered necessary to prevent all chance of loss to the Brewer.

With the little remaining money, which the poor Publican may have left of that, from which he has paid for the fixtures of the house, and as deposit for the lease, he has to defray the whole of the expenses of drawing up the lease, bond, and all other necessary documents, and after he has paid, besides, half the charges of the broker, for his valuation, the same proportion of the fees of the abroad Cooper, and Guagers, &c. (servants of the Brewer) which fees usually amount, as the incomer's share, to the sum of three or four guineas to each ; and in addition to which, he is expected to be at half the expense of furnishing the party with a handsome dinner and plenty of Wine, he is then allowed to remain in quiet possession. If his payments do not happen to be altogether regular in amount, the abroad Cooper, or some other servant of the Brewer, enters the house, without any notice, demands the key of the cel-

probation. The contents of this Treatise can only point to the Advertisers and Placarders of cheap Wines and Spirits, who, by plausible assertions, and high-sounding

lar, and proceeds to take an account of his stock of beer, in order to ascertain if he has paid according to the quantity he has sold. If the Brewers choose to lower the price of their commodity, a notice is sent round to each of their Publicans, directing them *immediately* to lower the prices of their beer likewise, no matter what stock they may have on hand at the time, and woe be to him who hesitates to do so. If the consumption of beer happens to fall off, without reference to what the cause may be, or however deserving the man, a representation is made to the Brewer and his partners, in full committee, by the managing clerk, (whose favour, be it remarked, is of the utmost consequence, and his own individual importance not less so), orders are issued, and before the man has, perhaps, been in the house twelve months, (if it so happen), his goods are seized by the warrant of attorney ; his lease retained possession of by the deed of assignment ; the other creditors are cheated of their just claims of a share in the proceeds of the estate ; and the poor man, who has lost his all, is sent to prison, irretrievably ruined. Whether an alteration is not required here, and by what other title, as truly applicable, the majority of this class of Dealers can be designated, I leave to the judgments of my Readers. It is quite time, some remedy should be proposed in the House of Commons, (and that too in a manner, in which it could not be influenced by the Brewers, who happen to be members of that house,) to diminish an evil of so gross a nature.

Independently, however, of the hardships which this system entails on the poor Publican, he is subject to others, by no means less severe in their operation, as regards his

pretensions, (as empty as they are pompous,) endeavour to cheat the Public, and enrich themselves. My object has, alone, been to expose the tricks, by which fraudu-

interests, nor less unjust to his situation as a member of society. One of these hardships, in particular, it becomes necessary to make known to the Reader, as it, in a great measure, comprehends and points out the difference which exists between what are termed Public-houses, and such as are distinguished by the appellation of Gin-shops. The original intention of all inns, Public-houses, Liquor-shops, &c. was, that they should be houses for accomodating travellers, and labourers, with rest and refreshment. Our modern Gin-shops, however, and particularly those on a large scale, possess no qualification of the kind, nor do they offer any, but from the temptations, which are held out by their proprietors, for the subversion of the morals of the lower classes, by facilitating the sale only of Spirits, to the exclusion of the more wholesome beverage of Porter, the means of doing which, (as they are compelled to have the latter article in stock), they attain, by keeping it so bad, or sour, as to be quite undrinkable; not only is the end, alluded to, fully accomplished, but the Publican, who is, or ought to be made, the only legitimate retailer, is materially injured in his business. Thus, a labouring man will now, at his usual dinner hour, call at a Public-house, (the keeper of which dares not refuse him entrance), in order to cook his victuals at the Tap-room fire, for which no charge is made, although, as some remuneration, (and which is the least that can be expected,) he probably purchases a pint, or a half pint of Porter, the total profit on which, is about one penny. No sooner, however, is his dinner concluded, than from the superior attraction offered in the article of Spirits, he immediately resorts to a Gin-shop, very likely, situated

lent Dealers are enabled to cover the system of adulteration and imposition they practice, and which they induce the Public to patronize, only by the effectual aid, which is afforded them, by the extraordinarily low prices, they are (as I have shown) so well qualified to advertise. Through the medium of this system, not only is it that spurious and deleterious articles are supplied, for which considerably more is paid than they are really worth, and the pockets of the parties themselves filled by practices so disreputable, but the

within a few doors of the poor Publican, and, as is generally the case, without even so much as a seat, on which to sit down. Here, the labourer partakes of his two or three glasses of Gin, out of which the Gin-shop-keeper clears a profit, nearly equal to the whole amount which has been received by the Publican, although the latter deals in precisely the same articles, and has to afford the greater accommodation, without any extra charge. To so great a length, indeed, has the evil, inflicted by these Gin-shops, arrived, that, with few exceptions, it is now only by those persons who hold leases under Brewers, that the Public-houses so held, have not been converted into Gin-shops, or the necessary and proper accommodation, discontinued to the poorer classes of the community. It is, also, a singular fact, that in the late depreciation of property, it has been only the Public-houses, which have so materially suffered, Gin-shops, still maintaining the enormous prices, which the value they have acquired, by the means I have shown, enables their proprietors to obtain.

very subsistence of those Tradesmen who are too honest to descend to such means for obtaining a livelihood, is also completely undermined and destroyed. It is to the individuals only, who, from *outward* circumstances, evidently follow the disgraceful practices which I have detailed, that the fact of their existence can be attributed.

That I have advanced no more than the plain truth, the many convictions which have taken place under the Excise Laws, for adulterating Wines and Spirits, or for imposing in any other way on the Revenue and the Public, with respect to those articles, would fully evidence. In a list of the numerous cases which have been brought under the cognizance of the Excise, it would be found, that the Dealers, whose practices I have exposed, form, by far, the majority, although, I have forborne publishing that list, lest, from the individuals whose names it contains, my motives in offering this Treatise to Public notice, should be misconstrued, and supposed to be of a personal and malignant nature.

From the facts and arguments, alone, which I have submitted, I leave the Public to gather some idea of the extent, to which

fraudulent adulterations have been, and still are, practised ; with the honest conviction, that should they appear of sufficient weight, to induce many to apply where the genuine article is *sold at a moderate price*, a greater and more effectual check, would be given to the present unjustifiable system, than could, perhaps, (under the existing state of the Excise Laws),* be done by any other method whatever.

* How inconsistent must those laws be, which render it better for a man to plead guilty to an alleged offence, although he be innocent, than attempt to defend himself ! and how very defective must they also be, when they allow the guilty an opportunity of shrouding themselves and their misdeeds in impenetrable secrecy from the public eye, by means of a private compromise !—a method of arrangement in which a certain fine is stipulated to be paid to the king, a certain *sum total* to be deposited for the expences of the Excise Solicitor, (whose place is a patent one) and the whole affair to be kept a profound secret. Such however, it may be said, is the state of our Excise Laws as at present constituted. The ruinous expence, and the dreadful anxiety which an *innocent* defendant has to experience, even if he gain the day, are too weighty to be preferred to the cheaper mode of private compromise. For, although guilt then becomes tacitly admitted, yet the thing is not made public, and the person is consequently saved the disgrace which would in all probability be attached to his character, for the whole of the period which would elapse before he obtained a verdict to clear him from the charge. Small hope can be entertained of any effectual check being given to adulterating and other deceptive practices, whilst the fa-

Should it be urged, in reply to these facts, by any of the class to whom what I have here stated applies, that I have divulged secrets which ought strictly to have

cility of screening themselves, which is thus afforded to those who are really guilty, is suffered to exist, or the delay and enormous charges attending an innocent person who defends himself in an Exchequer process, remain unabated. The Public have now no protection whatever, nor have those Traders who are desirous of acting honestly, any encouragement to continue to do so. On the one hand, (unless the case be flagrant indeed, and the penalties incurred, of very large amount,) they have frequently to witness parties who have experienced detection, (how or in what way the offence had been arranged, remaining a perfect mystery) carrying on, though doubtless in a more guarded manner, precisely the same game as previously to such detection. On the other hand, the people being thus also left in the dark, to what would, if exposed, soon tend to the putting down of a few of the Advertisers and Placarders of cheap Wines and Spirits, the honest and respectable Tradesman is deprived of that support which he would necessarily receive, if all law proceedings for illicit doings were fairly laid before the Public.

Such is said to be the inquisitorial nature of all Excise proceedings, that any Excise Officer who may have become acquainted with the facts of a case, which is to be, or has been compromised, is subject to instant dismissal, if he is ever detected in divulging a single iota of the subject. Not only, however, do the evils which I have mentioned, exist in a greater or less degree, but the very party, at whose disposal the peace and property of alleged offenders become thus placed, has the framing of all the enactments under which he is qualified to proceed, a circumstance which af-

been confined to the Trade, I answer, that, by no honest Wine Merchant (such an one, as makes the quality and genuineness of his goods, and the moderation of his prices, the test of his respectability), are the different materials for adulterating, and the method of their application, of the knowledge of which he may have become possessed, from long intercourse with all classes of Dealers, considered by any means secrets, either as belonging to the Trade, or worth the keeping.

That the reasons which induce me to publish this Treatise anonymously, will be correctly estimated, by those in the trade, and by others who happen to be intimately acquainted with the description of people,

fords him the power (if he chooses to avail himself of it,) of rendering them so minute and vexatious in their operation, and of introducing so many unmeaning observances, that, although they may not be at all calculated to prevent fraud, the very breach of a single regulation (however unnecessary or ridiculous,) places the offender completely in his grasp, from which he can only escape upon such terms, as to fine and *expences*, as the same party pleases to dictate to him.

Whether in this latter respect there is any *just ground* for complaint, I leave to those who have the better means of judging, and with respect to the former, it *may possibly be*, only in very doubtful cases, that compromises, accompanied with proportionate *fines*, are permitted to take place.

from whose guilty practices I have removed the veil, I have every expectation. To *all* persons, however, in a greater or less degree, it must be evident, that an open discussion, would add but little to the effect of these disclosures, or to the real benefit of the Public.—Whilst on the other hand, to the Advertising and Placarding Dealers, who have nothing to lose, but a source of profit unworthy of honest men, it would but serve as a channel for conveying fresh advertisements of their *pretensions* to the Public, and as an extra opportunity for puffing off an additional portion of their adulterated trash. To me, it could not possibly produce any similarly beneficial results; and a proper estimation of my motives, for this publication, will, therefore, I trust, be formed by *every* individual, into whose hands it may chance to fall.

To refute the substance of that which I have stated, would be no easy task—the whole of my arguments are deduced from facts—the facts speak for themselves—the conclusions I leave to my Readers and the Public. In submitting this statement, I consider I have fulfilled no more than a duty to my fellow-citizens, and that it, therefore, may operate as some check to

the wrong which is done them, and as a lesson to the perpetrators of the wicked and fraudulent practices which it details, is the sincere prayer of

A WELL-WISHER TO HONEST TRADERS.

A
BRIEF EXPOSITION
OF THE
DELETERIOUS NATURE
OF
BRITISH BRANDY,
AND OF THE GROSS FRAUDS WHICH ARE
PRACTISED THEREWITH.

A BRIEF
EXPOSITION,
&c.

It was my intention to have *embodied* in the preceding little work, a particular account of the pernicious ingredients which are employed in the manufacture of British Brandy, and the poisonous tendency which the article itself has on the constitutions of people. It has lately (through the puffing of a few individuals, styling themselves companies), been brought into considerable notice, and has proved itself a source of no small profit to those who manufacture and traffic in it; and a channel for the conveyance of no very trifling imposition on the Public.

In consequence, however, of the time re-

quired to gain complete information on the subject, and to obtain such facts as should carry conviction to the minds of my Readers, it was considered better to add it in its present form, (although its details are but brief,) rather than delay the re-appearance of the work for a longer period ;—a circumstance which it was the more desirable to avoid, as the *second* edition, (owing to the success which had attended its sale,) had been for a considerable period out of print.

The details which I am about to offer, at the same time that they will fully disclose the art of compounding the delectable mixture, which is ‘*entirely* to supersede Cognac Brandy,’ will demonstrate, on the part of the Excise, such a perfect subserviency to the interests of particular individuals, who are engaged in the lucrative traffic, or such a perfect indifference to the health and comfort of the poorer and middling classes of society, as well as to the treasury of His Majesty, as must excite the greatest astonishment.

To expose, however, at any time, the errors and absurdities which certain of the Excise Laws so notoriously contain, is no difficult task, because they are errors and absurdities which have arisen from a want

of practical experience on the part of those who have had the framing of the different Excise enactments, and because the representations of the more wealthy and influential classes of Tradesmen (who besides have had an *intimate* knowledge of their trade,) have always been able to procure a partial alteration in their own favour, in any measure which by chance may have been of considerable importance in its qualifications for preventing fraud.* On the other hand, it happens that those Dealers who do not possess any claims to '*undoubted consideration!!*' from *immense wealth*, (that worst of all pretensions in such a case,) and who for reasons which may easily be surmised, can form no splendid deputations, are left subject to paltry laws and regulations, which, instead of placing fraud totally out of their power, tend so to harass and perplex them, as in fact almost to render the conducting of business in a manner cal-

* The Gin-shop-keepers, on the passing of the late distillery Act, in which originally there was a clause to disable them from conducting a wholesale and retail business on one and the same premises, (to the Revenue and the Public perhaps the most important in the whole Act,) are said to have adopted the '*deputation plan*' most successfully.

culated to cheat the Revenue, (and particularly when the vast profits obtained by those who adopt unfair means, are also taken into the scale,) to be preferred to fair trading. To place the Public on their guard against an article which is little better than a *slow poison*, and to elucidate certain important facts, in the course of an exposure of as great a system of fraud as any which I have already laid open, is the object of this addition to the work. An addition, which is made, in some measure, from a hope that it may chance to catch the eye, and arrest the attention, of those whose duty it is to protect the people from imposition, and the Revenue from being cheated of its due. Should such fortunately be the case, as I trust it may be, it is their province to inquire if that which I advance as fact, have any real foundation; which can only be done (not by applying to the superior Officers of the Excise Department, but,) by questioning the humble Exciseman. He will tell them that at present, with Retailers, he possesses no means of prevention, although he can prove the existence of fraudulent practices; and he can (and he will, if he be unbiassed,) enforce a conviction on their minds of the

truth of all which the present work advances relative to those practices. In stating the baneful effects which are caused by the introduction of British Brandy, I purpose, in the first place, to unveil the process and ingredients which are employed in the manufacture of the article, and then to expose the illicit and fraudulent use which is made of it.

The method whereby the manufacture of British Brandy is performed, (although at the head of one of these *British* 'French Brandy' concerns, is a physician* of some celebrity, and, singularly enough, somewhat noted for recommending to his patients, Bread and Water diet,') is such as to render it, in deleterious effect, equal to the composition of *cheap* Gin, than which few things can be more highly pernicious to the constitutions of the people.

The process and ingredients† which comprise the manufacture of British Brandy, are as follows, and it is the proportions in

* The gentleman here alluded to, has, I am informed, lately withdrawn himself from the concern, although he was originally a large shareholder therein.

† To be purchased under particular titles, and ready for use, at what are termed *Brewers' and Distillers' Druggists*.

which each of the articles enumerated are applied, and the addition of a few others, un-named, which constitute the secrets, in the art of making it, of nearly all the different companies and concerns for the vending of such poisonous trash.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oil of Vitriol,* † | Bitter Almond Meal, |
| Vinegar,‡ | Orris Root, |
| Nitrum Dulce, | Cassia Buds, |
| Tincture of Raisin Stones, | Extract of Capsicums, or |
| Tinctura Japonica, | of Grains of Paradise. |
| Cherry-laurel Water, | Colouring, &c. |

Having thus stated some of the principal

* Generally used in the proportion of six or seven pounds to 100 gallons of overproof rectified Spirits.

† ‘The common method of rectifying Spirits from Alkaline Salts, destroys their vinosity, and in its stead introduces an urinous or livid taste. But as it is absolutely necessary to restore, or at least to substitute in its room some degree of vinosity, several methods have been proposed, and a multitude of experiments performed, in order to discover this great *desideratum*, but none has succeeded equal to *Oil of Vitriol*, and, accordingly this article either strong or dulcified, is used to give an agreeable vinosity to Spirits—this ingredient should be mixed with the Brandy, (‘after the latter has been distilled’) by which means the vinosity will be intimately blended with the goods and disposed not to fly off. Vide, *The Complete Distiller*.

‡ This article is used (though comparatively in small quantities, from its peculiar flavor), in order to convey a partial effect without requiring the aid of so large a portion of *Oil of Vitriol* as would occasion the use of it, easily detected.

ingredients which are used in the composition of this *rival* to pure Cognac, I will now point out (although it would scarcely seem necessary to do so), why it should be of a nature so unwholesome as I have reported it to be, and why it should be more so than Gin, in its genuine state, the latter article being flavored by drugs, some of which are quite as deleterious as a part of those I have just mentioned. The reason may be shortly stated thus: — British Brandy is *composed* of drugs, Gin only *flavored* by them. In the manufacture of Gin, the ingredients are put into the still, with a Spirit which has been previously rectified, and the condensed evaporation which is derived from the whole, constitutes the article of Gin. In the preparation, however, of British Brandy, the mixture is made, without any process, through a still, being compounded more like a quack doctor's nostrum. The only part of the manufacture wherein distillation is concerned, consists merely in rectifying either Rum or Malt Whisky, to deprive them of their essential oils, so that they may be reduced to a state as tasteless as possible, and thereby the more readily receive the spurious flavors intended to be imparted to

them. As soon as one of these two Spirituous Liquors (according to whichsoever the Brandy-maker chooses to adopt), proves to be as tasteless as is required, it is pumped into vats; and the several ingredients which I have mentioned, are then added in their *raw state*, and different proportions, and well mixed up and incorporated with the contents of each vat. The water requisite to reduce the whole to the standard of strength limited by Government, and the colouring to give it the proper hue, are next apportioned, and this '*almost superior Brandy to Cognac*,' (as the manufacturers themselves *so modestly* designate it,) is at once ready to be offered for sale to all those persons who are '*for a short life and a merry one*.' Should it be inquired why the same process as is adopted in the manufacture of Gin, should not succeed in the making of British Brandy the answer is, because in distilling the necessary drugs with the rectified Spirit, the flavor would neither retain sufficient predominancy, nor be sufficiently fixed to enable the article to sustain the desired likeness to Brandy, besides that the effect of several of the ingredients, such as the *Oil of Vitriol*, and *Nitrum Dulce*, which are used to impart a resem-

blance of the vinosity possessed by genuine French Brandy, would be completely destroyed. Of the immense profits which are derived from these British Brandy concerns, and which concerns are now daily increasing, some idea may be gathered, from the fact, that although only the same rate of duty is charged on the Spirit employed in the manufacture of British Brandy, as is affixed to the article of Gin, and that although the expences attached to the latter article are very considerably greater, owing to the re-distillation which it undergoes, yet one is sold to the trade, by the Rectifiers, at the cash price of 9s. per gallon, seventeen per centum underproof, the other by the Brandy-makers, at 13s. 6d. per gallon, on the same terms of cash payment, and at an equal degree of strength. I had almost omitted also to mention, that a very necessary personage to be employed on the premises where the article is exclusively manufactured, in order the better to conduct the sale thereof, is a Frenchman who can speak little or no English, and who should occasionally be seen by the customers, to give the impression to those who know no better, that the process of manufacture is *precisely* similar to that

of real French Brandy, which is made from the juice of the Grape. Having thus briefly divulged the secrets of the art of *British* 'French Brandy' making, it now devolves upon me to state the injurious effects which the article entails on the Revenue, and the impositions which are practised, through its means, on the Public. The obloquy of conducting the sale of British Brandy, it will be seen, attaches to the manufacturers themselves, only so far as the preparing such a deleterious compound as it must necessarily be, and the allowing it to be palmed on the Public by means of false descriptions of its qualities, are in themselves criminal. The baneful effects of its introduction are more widely disseminated by others. The largest and principal customers to the British Brandy-makers for their spurious commodity (and I can be supported by the evidence of nearly every Exciseman in London), are the Gin-shop-keepers, and some of the country wholesale Dealers, who derive a profit by again disposing of it to their retail customers; besides these are the confectioners, who find the article a profitable substitute for the French Brandy, hitherto purchased by them, for cer-

tain uses to which they have had occasion to apply it. The Gin-shop-keepers, however, being the principal medium through which the impositions are practised on the Revenue and the Public, by means of this article, and which are, in some measure, effected as well by the bad construction of the Excise Laws which relate to those Dealers, as in point of fact it is in them chiefly that I can, with the greatest truth, expose the frauds which are committed, and to caution the Public against which has formed the primary object of the present statement. To Excise Officers, as well as to the trade generally, it has for a long time been a notorious fact, that amongst the large Wholesale and Retail Gin-shop-keepers (and especially those who placard and advertise) British Brandy and other commodities, such as rectified Spirits, &c. have been in almost universal request and use for adulterating purposes. The pains which are, in fact, bestowed in the manufacture of both articles, but more especially that on which I am now treating—the want of some effectual restrictions—and the facilities which are afforded to the retailers, independently of the small chance of detection which exists, at once offering

the most tempting inducements for their application — Inducements which are so sanctioned by the opportunities afforded, as to become almost irresistible, the truth of which, may perhaps be estimated, when it is affirmed, that the conveyance of fraud to nearly any extent the Gin-shop-keeper pleases, is scarcely a matter of risk, much less of difficulty. For a considerable period, the article of British Brandy has only been used by the Gin-shop-keepers as a profitable commodity, to enable them in combining it with Cognac Brandy, to advertise and placard the mixture, as the latter article, ‘*pure and unadulterated*, at astonishingly low prices, for ready money only,’ &c. &c. So well, however, have they now ascertained their security, and so well do they estimate the latitude afforded them for making this article the source of certain little peculations, that by several of them, British Brandy is now sold (though, be it observed, principally in drams, and to those who are the least qualified to judge whether it be the genuine article or not), as pure foreign Brandy, at the rate of about 24s. per gallon, thus leaving a cash profit of 10s. 6d. per gallon, besides what is to be derived from the turn of the glass.

Thus, if a person goes into a Gin-shop where this disgraceful imposition is practiced, and requests a glass of Brandy, and his appearance causes the supposition that he is not to be tamely imposed upon, he is served with the article of French Brandy in an adulterated state only, instead of British Brandy by itself. Or, should he be supplied with the latter commodity, and he immediately detect the imposture, the *mistake* in having served him from the *wrong* cock is directly apologised for, and rectified by a glass from the cask which contains the adulterated French Brandy. The imposition, however, even in selling British Brandy as foreign (to say nothing of the facility with which an admixture of the two together, is to be disposed of, and how common an occurrence it has become), may not altogether be said to be confined to the retailing it in glasses, for so shamefully defective are the Excise Laws which relate to Spirit Dealers rendered, by the allowing British Brandy to be disposed of in the way it is at present, that except the Officer be a party or an eye-witness to the offence, (which is next to an impossibility) or the retailer's stock of foreign Brandy shows an increase unaccounted for, no detection,

or at any rate punishment, can take place. What individual, unless assisted by positive evidence, could well swear (without subjecting himself to the chance of committing perjury), that French or any other foreign Brandy *might* not be of so *rank* and *inferior* a quality, and consequently bear so near a resemblance to British Brandy, as to leave the possibility of an article to which he might then be required to make oath, being also of foreign manufacture, although to the best of his knowledge he might believe it to be British? Very few Excise Officers, I apprehend, would be found, if the conviction of an offender depended only on the contingency of an oath, who would so far run the chance of committing themselves, as to swear positively, without the support of such other evidence as would of itself enforce a conviction.—A fact which I have had from several of their fraternity, and which, considering the obloquy usually cast upon Excisemen as a body, cannot but reflect on them some degree of credit.

Under the present constitution of the laws which apply to Retail Dealers, and consequently as far as relates to Gin-shop-keepers, no means whatever exist of obtaining those proofs of dishonesty which are

so requisite to convict an offender ; a circumstance the more to be lamented, because that such dishonesty is practiced, and very generally too, can be proved to demnstration.

The evils which result from the shameful latitude which is thus afforded to Gin-shopkeepers and other retail Dealers, are not, however, confined only to the lower classes of society. They are more widely circulated (and that too, amongst those to whom the consequences of drinking a wholesome article, are much greater than to the poor dram-drinkers, who care not what they pour down their throats), by means of the *wholesale* Wine and Spirit Trade being conducted on the same premises as the retail. But the statements which I have already made in the preceding work, render totally unnecessary any additional proofs or remarks on the immense extent of fraud, which may be, and is, alas ! in too many instances, committed, where such is the case. It wil be sufficient if I refer my Readers to those passages which more immediately treat on this most glaring of all defects in the Excise Laws. There is, however, a singular anomaly in the same code of laws, which I have omitted, and which de-

serves particular mention. It is, that whilst an officer of Excise, if he suspect that pepper, for instance, has been adulterated, may, if he choose, abstract a sample which is afterwards handed to a chymist, whose single oath, as to the fact, would convict the Dealer in a penalty of heavy amount ; no measure of any kind at all effective, as far as regards 'retail and wholesale' Wine and Spirit concerns, is legislated to protect the Public with respect to deteriorated Wines and Spirits, the only circumstances by which a conviction is to be obtained, in reference to them, being either the evidence of an Exciseman, or some other person who had seen and known how the spurious mixture had been made, or an increase (unaccounted for) appearing in the Traders' stock. As regards the latter, from the mode of survey which a retail stock undergoes, if the business be properly understood, the detection of any increase is next to impossible ; and I have even heard that certain Officers, upon showing a little extra diligence in order to discover the improper use of British Brandy, and other spurious commodities, have been both laughed at and completely set at defiance, at the same time that the purposes of such

articles had been acknowledged with the greatest effrontery. It is true that British and foreign Spirits are *directed* to be kept separate from each other, but whilst the decreases which occur (from what is retailed,) in the stocks of those Gin-shop-keepers who have *wholesale* as well as retail licences, (for it would be extremely difficult with those who are solely retail, to substitute any other mode of taking account for that employed at present), are permitted to be unaccounted for, or the two branches of trade rendered perfectly distinct, so long will adulterations and impositions be practised to the enormous extent they are at this time. The Gin-shop-keeper never makes an addition to any of his goods in the way of adulteration, until he is afforded sufficient room in such goods *by what has been retailed of them*, to allow of the increase which would be occasioned by the adulterating articles, without causing an excess beyond his credit. It is this plan which enables him to carry on his depredations to almost any length he pleases; and it is by the impossibility of detection which it also affords him, if he fully understands the advantages he possesses, that he is permitted to cheat the Public with so

much plausibility, and to escape with such impunity the punishment he deserves.

The more pernicious articles of adulteration also, such as *Oil of Vitriol*, *Extract of Grains of Paradise*, &c. with the exception of the most harmless, viz. Colouring, (and that merely where Porter is sold,) are allowed not only to be kept on the premises of Gin-shop-keepers, but on those of Rectifiers and British Brandy-makers, &c. as well, without any restriction whatever, and the proprietors of the latter may likewise (if they please to make known their secret), incorporate them with their Spirits in the actual presence of the Officer. Is it not extraordinary that whilst Brewers of Beer for instance, are under the strictest survey of the Excise, and subject to the heaviest penalties, if even such ingredients be only found on their premises, in order to prevent the use of deleterious commodities, the Brandy-makers, without any breach of the existing laws, may, and absolutely do, mix the most noxious drugs (and that, too, in a way calculated to render the article to be drank, poisonous in a degree), under the very superintendence of an Officer? On the one hand, the Brewer is liable to the severest punishment the Excise can inflict:

on the other hand, in the very same code of laws, and emanating from the same source, practices quite as destructive, and equally deserving of punishment, are left altogether unnoticed and unrestricted. The duty which is paid on British Brandy, at the rate of strength at which it is sold by the manufacturers, [(viz. seventeen per centum underproof,) is at about 5s. 10d. per gallon; the duty which French Brandy pays when reduced to the same ratio of strength, is about 18s. 8d. per gallon. Thus the substitution of the one for the other, not only affords the means of imposing on the People, but also robs the revenue of 12s. 10d. in every gallon which is sold of it, whilst the same identical moiety, instead of benefitting the Public in the least, is enriching only the unfair Gin-shop-keeper. Reckoning at round numbers, that 200,000 gallons of British Brandy (which may be considered as not quite two-thirds of the quantity now annually manufactured), supplies the place of the foreign Brandy which would otherwise be consumed, and calculating 200,000 gallons of foreign Brandy *only*, to imply at the *same* strength as the British, it at once demonstrates a yearly loss to the Government of no less a sum than 128,333*l.* 6s. 8d.

Of this sum, at least two-thirds, or 85,555*l.* 1*l.* 1*d.* go annually into the pockets of those dishonest Traders who turn the article of British Brandy to a fraudulent use, and who are at once a disgrace to society, and monuments of shame to those whose duty it is to protect the people by such legislative provisions as should not be enacted from the representations, and by the influence of parties interested. In how great a degree, ought they to be considered, in such a point of view, when we reflect that so far from the Public or the Revenue deriving the slightest benefit, the one may be said to be as bad as poisoned, and the other robbed. Can we feel surprise, or doubt that this is the case, when we look around us, and observe (internally as well as externally) the gaudy mansions which are erected and are still erecting for the retailing of Gin, &c.—when we see their proprietors vieing with the nobility in the splendour of their equipages—and, when we may also see the Gin-shop-keeper (as I myself have seen him)* in his private

* At the same end of the town where this circumstance occurred, is another Gin-shop-keeper, who has fitted up an apartment in a most superb manner, and that too with a *richly ornamented state bed*. Another Gin-shop-keeper, also, who has a country house a few miles from town,

boudoir adjoining the *shop*, lolling on a sofa in his French dressing-gown, with red morocco slippers on his feet, alternately employing himself with a richly ornamented album, or some fashionable novel, and that too, shortly after the hour of noon. I say, can we witness all this, and consider what the ordinary takings in Gin-shops are, and yet shut our eyes to the means by which so extraordinary and apparently inexplicable a state of things is accomplished.

Do we not daily see that Gin-shops, which stand at yearly rents, perhaps of from ninety to one hundred pounds, which do not return probably more than four thousand pounds per annum, are let for a term of eighteen or twenty-one years, at premiums of from two thousand to three thousand guineas, and frequently half as much more expended in beautifying and ornamenting the ‘concern,’ and all this too, with the drawback of their being quite at the mercy of the magistrate as to their licences being renewed. And can we, with such facts before us, wonder at the

usually drives his family to church on a Sunday in his carriage-and-four, and may not unfrequently be seen driving to his Distiller’s in a somewhat similarly dashing style.

easy credulity with which the enticements of puffing Gin-shop-keepers must be swallowed, or that such articles as British Brandy, &c. should turn to a better and more profitable account than we are altogether aware of.

British Brandy should (at all events) be suffered only to be manufactured for exportation. Its cheapness (allowing a drawback of the duty which is charged on it) would, perhaps, obtain for it that sale in other countries which it is so impolitic (particularly under the present high duty system) to allow in this; and would probably, at the same time, somewhat indemnify those persons who have chosen to engage in the trade of compounding it. As an article which is neither useful (except as a source of fraud) nor profitable (except to the Manufacturers and Gin-shop-keepers), no such analogy can be said to exist between it and those of our other manufactures, which are really deserving of encouragement, as should claim for it any exemption on the score of its being of British make.

That the practices which I have exhibited with respect to British Brandy are not adopted by *every* Gin-shop-keeper I am as ready to affirm as they themselves would be,

and can, at the same time testify, that there are some amongst them as honourable and as upright men, as in any other class of tradesmen in London. The principal fault, perhaps, lies in the extensive means for conducting fraud which are afforded them by permitting the unrestricted sale of British Brandy, and other spurious Compounds,*

* Another article has lately made its appearance, under the title of "*British*" Schiedam Geneva, a vile compound, made up somewhat in the same way as British Brandy, and by no means less poisonous, because it has the appearance of being chiefly compounded with essential oils, a drop of some of which, if taken in a raw state, is sufficient to cause death. The duty which is paid on genuine Hollands is 22s. 6d. per gallon. The total cost of this imitation Hollands, which has lately been introduced, is only 12s. per gallon. So great an inducement as such a difference in the cost of one article made to resemble another of higher value, must afford, has not been overlooked by the fraudulent Gin-shop-keepers; and it is currently reported, that the proprietors of one of the larger of the advertising Gin-shop concerns, were so well satisfied of its utility, *in a certain way*, and of *their means* of disposing of the article *profitably*, as absolutely to have made an offer to undertake the "bringing of it out," but which (as it is also reported,) was refused, on the ground, that it would have been likely to have created a jealousy with the rest of the fraternity. Is it not a singular circumstance, that the parties here alluded to, should of late only advertise from a separate wholesale concern which they have recently established, instead of doing so, as formerly, from the wholesale business which is carried on in their Gin-shop? Do they think the people are still so credulous, as not to

and by some of the Excise Laws as at present constituted. The chief of the larger Gin-shop-keepers have availed themselves both of such articles, and of the latitude which is afforded them by those laws. Others, who do not rank so highly, must, and will, of necessity, follow their example. The evil is now principally confined to the more *public situations*, and to those places where the greatest rivalry exists as to which shall be the cheaper house, or gain the greater name. It will, ere long, become universal.

The wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants the only proper class, as wholesale dealers, both from the claim of originality, and from the few means which they possess of adulterating either Wines or Spirits, are, perhaps, as tradesmen, the most affected of any, by the advertising and placarding system, which the Gin-shop-keepers have been so well qualified to introduce.

A system which I do not hesitate to say, (general as it has become), is striking at the

know, that the spurious compositions which they make up at the latter place from the greater facilities which they there possess, may be removed by their own permits to the premises from which they now intend to puff them off?

root of all legitimate and honourable business, and must, if it continue to be countenanced as it has been, eventually, reduce every honest tradesman to the horrible alternative of gaining his livelihood by trickery and fraud.

It is this system which has introduced that degree of jealousy between the wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, which has disunited them, and prevented any public co-operation on their parts to expose the frauds, and to open the eyes of the Revenue to the practices which are injuring its interests, as materially as they are the interests of those who are desirous of conducting business on fair and equitable principles, and it is these circumstances which have induced me to venture upon the present means for obtaining some effectual restrictions to the adulterations and impositions of which the public are now being made the victims. The Gin-shop-keepers will, no doubt, as heretofore, raise the old hue and cry 'of the *vast* majority which they form, in point of number, over all other classes of tradesmen, and the *immense* value of the property they hold, so great indeed, I have heard some of them say, as to incur the risk of most serious consequences, should it be

attempted to be meddled with. The government will, however judge, (when it considers besides, that those individuals who are most interested in making such representations form scarcely a hundredth part of all whom they are pleased to rank as of their own class), how far it is consistent to permit the frauds which are daily practised by means of British Brandy and other spurious articles, and how far the value which Gin-shops have acquired by the facilities which they possess for effecting imposition, should so identify it, as to oblige it to support the proprietors of them in their iniquity, at the expence of the Public, and to the detriment of all others of the trade.

It is doubtless, only just, that government should protect our own manufactures in preference to those of other countries, though, by no means is it equally evident that it should not make exceptions of all such as are not only pernicious in themselves and injurious to the Revenues of the country, but aided by certain defects in the laws, tend also to destroy the comforts and to prey upon the constitutions and purses of the people.

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"The terrific disclosures contained in the well-known Treatise of 'Death in the Pot,' which showed that almost every article of our ordinary food was sophisticated and vitiated by deleterious ingredients, are nearly paralleled by the statements in a little work which has just appeared under the title of 'Wine and Spirit Adulterators Unmasked;' a Treatise setting forth the various tricks played with Wines and Spirits, especially such as are offered by puffers at 'cheap prices.' The statements in the former Treatise were a good deal overcharged, and therefore failed

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in their effect. The present work, the author of which evidently understands his subject, comprehends demonstrations as well as assertions. It contains positive proofs that the stuff palmed upon the Public for foreign Wine and foreign Spirits, at prices below the original cost and duty, must necessarily be spurious. The author details minutely the whole process by which vapid spirit may, by the help of Capsicum, Cherry-laurel Water, Extract of Almond Cake, &c. be converted into fine full proof Brandy; and the art of transmuting Benecarlo or Figuera into old Port, by the aid of Salt of Tartar, Gum Dragon, Berry-dye, and Brandy Cowe, leaving a profit of from 20*l.* to 30*l.* a pipe—the doctor's fee. Even Gin, cheap Gin, patronized by the vulgar for its supposed genuineness, as an article of British manufacture, is distinguished from the rest by the poisonous nature of the ingredients which compose it. These are the Oils of Vitriol, Turpentine, Juniper, &c. Sulphuric Ether, Extract of Capsicum, Grains of Paradise, &c. Hence Gin, which is procurable from the malt distillers and rectifiers, (who enjoy a virtual monopoly of this Spirit) at 9*s.* or 10*s.* per gallon, is advertised at 5*s.* 9*d.* per gallon and upwards, the advertiser deriving at the same time a clear profit of from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per gallon. Dram-drinkers will perhaps be startled at the mention of Oil of Vitriol or Sulphuric Acid! The Treatise deserves attention from drinkers of cheap liquors.”—*Times*, November 8, 1827.

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the celebrated unmasker of the adulterators of bread and flour,) he has himself profited by the mal-practices which he denounces : on the contrary, we gladly give him all imaginable credit for purity of motive, and believe that his exposition may be of considerable service to the consumers of Wines and Spirits. Our readers would not thank us for entering at length into the various arts by which numerous dealers in these commodities contrive to under-rate their brethren, deceive the public, and enrich themselves. Statements, which appear to carry with them the evidence of their authenticity, and calculations, upon which apparently every reliance may be placed, are here advanced, and to such, in these pages, we refer all who are interested in the subject. The author's object has been to expose the fraudulent tricks by which certain advertisers are enabled to offer, at extraordinary low prices, articles which he pronounces to be spurious and deleterious ; and in support of the assertions contained in this exposition, he points triumphantly to the many convictions which have taken place under the Excise Laws, for adulteration and imposition of various kinds."—*Literary Chronicle, December 1, 1827.*

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they do in fact, serve to produce evils of the most lamentable nature. The present work is intended to expose the adulterations practised in the Wines and Spirits which are puffed off in placards and advertisements, and sold at a low price, and the contrivances by which the Excise is evaded.

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